



EMOTIONAL SIR BOBBY UNVEILS TRIBUTE PLAQUE TO HIS OLD PAL



Sir Bobby Charlton unveils the plaque to honour Duncan Edwards

SIR Bobby Charlton unveiled a plaque in the Black Country honouring the 'genius' of his close friend, Manchester United and England footballer Duncan Edwards.

The footballing great gave no speech – he left that to the local dignitaries – but he was clearly moved by the occasion, the latest in a series of tributes to the town's talented young player whose career was cut short by tragedy in 1958.

During an hour-long reception afterwards, Sir Bobby reminisced with the Edwards' family about the player's generosity – and his Black Country accent.

He delighted those who waited in the rain for him to re-emerge by signing au-

tograph books, programmes and even a girl's jacket.

At a gala evening later on Saturday, Sir Alex Ferguson sent a video message honouring the revered No 6 who died as a result of his injuries in the Munich air disaster of 1958. That tragedy killed 23 including eight members of the famous 'Busby Babes' United team.

Birthday

Twelve members of the player's family were guests of honour at the unveiling, on what would have been Edwards' 80th birthday.

The plaque has been erected in Priory Park where the young Edwards honed

his skills during kickabouts with pals. Other memorials include a statue in the town centre, a major road named after the player and a stained glass window in nearby St Francis's Church.

The ceremony took place in pouring rain but still many waited for more than three hours to make sure they had a good view.

Sir Bobby, 78, stepped in after Dudley-born Sam Allardyce pulled out after quitting his job as England manager last Tuesday following shocking revelations in a national newspaper.

● **Tribute, more pictures – see page 4**

HERITAGE

Chapel restoration up for major award

HISTORIC Lye and Wollescote Chapels have been nominated for a prestigious award following their restoration.

Work to bring the Grade II listed buildings back into use after more than 20 years was completed in February. Now they have been put forward for 'Best Community Action Project' 2016 in the Historic England Heritage Angel Awards.

The complex, in Cemetery Road, Lye, has been transformed into a venue for civil ceremonies, including weddings and christenings, and renamed the Thomas Robinson Building, after its original architect. West Midlands Historic Buildings Trust secured a £1million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund for the project.

TRANSPORT

Metro extension to begin next year

LONG-AWAITED plans for a Midland Metro extension line in the Black Country finally look set to go ahead – with council chiefs saying work will start next year.

Sarah Norman, chief executive of Dudley Council, said on social media that the project – a tram line between Wednesbury and Brierley Hill – will start next year.

The project has been backed by MPs, councillors and business leaders

● **Opportunity – Page 2**

FOOTBALL

Pitch is removed after complaints

FOOTBALL has been banned on part of a playing field in Netherton following complaints from nearby residents.

Homeowners near fields at Dudley Wood Road had become fed-up with balls landing in their gardens and anti-social behaviour. A pitch has been removed with goalposts taken down.

Secretary of Kidderminster and District Football League League Ernie Pyke said: "It's absurd. On one hand they are talking about health and they have taken away a football pitch." Dudley environment boss Councillor Hilary Bills said teams are being offered alternative facilities.

INSIDE

WIN FESTIVE GIFT FAIR TICKETS



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Supporters ready to launch biggest fundraising campaign £3m TO REVAMP HOSPICE UNIT

THE Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge has been given the go-ahead for a £3 million redevelopment, which will include a revamp of the day services unit, enabling more patients to be cared for.

The Mary Stevens Hospice will now proceed with the largest fundraising campaign in its history.

Hospice fundraisers are now tasked with raising £2 million of the £3 million required to completely refurbish the day services unit, with a view to start the project in spring 2017.

Since the day services unit opened in 1991, the Mary Stevens Hospice has aimed to provide respite and treatment to people and families living with progressive, incurable life-shortening illnesses in the Dudley borough, 9am-5pm from Monday-Friday.

The day unit is currently running at 100 per cent capacity, meaning they are unable to care for any more patients than they do currently, which has prompted the ambitious plan for a purpose-built building.

Family

Included will be new treatment and consulting rooms, state-of-the-art equipment, improved child bereavement and consultation facilities, improved education and training facilities and a fully-equipped overnight family apartment. That will offer families the opportunity to stay at the hospice during a critical time. It will also allow the team at the hospice to perform urgent and vital procedures which would previously have had to be done in hospital, such as blood transfusions.

This development is the biggest project undertaken at the hospice since it opened in 1991 and follows on from the success of a £1 million upgrade to the in-patient unit in 2014.

Charlotte Schofield, head of fundraising

Report by Doug Wootton

and lottery at Mary Stevens Hospice, said: "This is the news we've been waiting for. To raise an additional £2 million on top of our £2.8 million running costs is going to require a huge effort from our fundraisers, volunteers, supporters and everyone in our local community, but if there's a group of people that can do it, it's this hospice family.

"We're so grateful to receive the continuing support of so many people, and each and every person will make a huge difference as we strive to provide our care to more and more people in their hour of need."

Stevan Jackson, chief executive officer of the hospice said: "Since the hospice was opened 25 years ago, the number of Day Unit patient attendances has increased dramatically. In the last 10 years alone attendances have almost doubled, from 2,282 in 2005 to 4,244 in 2015 and many of our patients now have highly complex needs.

"Trustees have calculated that the most effective way of coping with this ever-increasing demand is to increase capacity by around 90 per cent in the fullness of time, which would allow a further 3,692 patient attendances annually."



An artist's impression of how the Mary Stevens Hospice on Hagley Road will look after a revamp




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Metro extension is authority's priority

MULTI-MILLION pound plans for a Midland Metro extension link from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill will start next year, according to a council chief.

The scheme, which has been in the pipeline for nearly two decades, finally looks set to get off the ground after gaining Government backing.

West Midlands Combined Authority bosses have said the Metro extension is set to be the first project completed as part of the region's devolution deal.

The extension runs for around seven miles from the existing line at Wednesbury to Great Bridge. It would continue to Horsley Heath, Dudley Port, Dudley town centre, the Waterfront and Merry

Hill, before terminating in Brierley Hill town centre.

Business leaders have hailed its potential for the region's economy.

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman tweeted: "Good progress on Brierley Hill Metro reported at @WestMids_CA Board Meeting. Will start in 2017."

Black Country LEP board member Ninder Johal said: "If we're going to continue to attract inward investment then infrastructure is the number one priority. The formation of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the devolved funding it will bring will hopefully bring much improved in-

frastructure. The extension from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill is an example of that and also ties in with the extra investment into the Merry Hill shopping centre by Intu."

Dudley Council's Conservative group leader Patrick Harley said: "This is something people have been talking about as a pipe dream for about 20 years."

"If we can get this done and people can see the construction, preparation and clearing of sites for tracks as quickly as 12 months' time it will give them confidence in the merits of the combined authority."

● **Corbyn backs Metro extension** – see page 11

Untidy worry as grass mowing being reduced

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council has slashed its budget on grass-cutting services by £50,000.

The move has come in for criticism from councillors who said the move would leave areas untidy.

Council bosses say the authority is facing 'unprecedented times' due to funding cuts from the Government.

But UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood, for Wordsley, said: "I think the green care team have had enough cuts. We can't sustain this system anymore – or there will be trees growing out of traffic lights."

He added: "It has to be recognised that there has been massive cuts from the Conservative Government but there has been excess waste from Dudley Council which is not sustainable."

"I'm getting complaints from residents regarding the maintenance of green spaces. Weeds are not getting sprayed as regularly."

The cuts to grass cutting services will mean grass in public spaces will be mowed less frequently.

Pressure

Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environmental services, said: "The council has procedures in place to manage and maintain green spaces across the borough. However, as we face unprecedented times with significantly reduced funding from national Government, this adds massive pressure onto our grounds maintenance teams and has impacted on the level of maintenance we are able to carry out."

"Therefore, in a number of areas, where it is appropriate, we have had to reduce levels of maintenance. This includes a £50,000 saving for 2016/17 through a reduced grass cutting service."

"I would stress that wherever possible we will work hard to try to make sure the majority of open spaces are maintained to an appropriate level."

Sedgley's Councillor Michael Evans said: "I think Dudley Council are cutting the budget far too much. We are going to have overgrown verges and verges, which is not acceptable."

"Overgrown verges can make places look dilapidated. We want to be having a greener and smarter borough."

Sculptor back to school for project



Black Country artist Luke Perry unveils his latest work at his old school – King Edward VII college in Stourbridge

A BLACK Country artist has unveiled a new sculpture at the college where he first began developing his skills.

Luke Perry is renowned for creating works which symbolise the Black Country's industrial history, but now he has unveiled an artwork which represents his time at King Edward VI College, Stourbridge.

His dragon sculpture, which is wrapped around a metal signpost, was unveiled to students and staff.

The 33-year-old who has a workshop in Cradley Heath was invited to create the unique sculpture with some of the college's current art students.

Luke and the students have been working since June to design and build it.

Luke said "The fact that we only began in June and it was installed at the beginning of this month meant it was quite an intense schedule. But we were given a lot of freedom by the college and, with

a certain amount of guidance from myself, we were able to create the vision of the students."

"The location of the piece is in a place that is a particular sun trap and where the students go for some space, so the sculpture marks that. The idea is that it's a moral compass. The signpost at the top, rather than being quite obvious in pointing students in the right direction, in fact includes quite enigmatic quotes from films and literature, chosen by the students."

Woman was attacked on towpath by cycle mugger

A WOMAN has been punched and robbed as she walked along a canal towpath shortly after shopping at Merry Hill.

The victim was punched in the face 'a number of times' before being pushed to the floor in the violent attack in Brierley Hill.

The male attacker, who had approached her on a bicycle, stole her bag. Members of the public saw the assault and shouted at the attacker before he fled.

The 21-year-old woman was assaulted on the towpath off Ashton Park Drive. It happened around 5.15pm on Sunday shortly after she left the shopping centre.

Police say the man is described as white, stocky and wearing a 'Castrol' T-shirt.

He rode off on the bike which was described as dark red with black wheels and no saddle.

Detective Inspector Nigel Smith from Dudley CID said: "This was a nasty robbery in which the woman was making her way home along the towpath when she was attacked by this man riding a bike."

"Some members of the public on a bridge saw what was happening and shouted at him. I'm anxious to trace these people as they may have vital information."

Anyone with information should email Pc Shelly Punshon at contactus@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk or call officers on 101.

Masked men stole cash and vodka

MASKED knife-wielding raiders burst into a One Stop shop in Wordsley demanding cash and booze in a robbery. The two men stole £80 and two bottles of vodka.

Police made one arrest less than an hour after the 10pm raid on Thursday after watching CCTV of the raid. A second man was later arrested at an address despite trying to run off from police officers while wearing just his boxer shorts. Both are now in police custody.

The local men, both aged 22, were being questioned.

Chief Inspector Gill Davenport, of Dudley Police, said: "We conducted a speedy investigation with the help of staff at the shop, including a first arrest for one of our new student officers."

Walk to learn more about Mary Stevens

A GUIDED walk to learn about Mary Stevens is being held in Stourbridge.

The 90 minute walk starts at 10am on October 26 from St Mary's Church in Rectory Road, Oldswinford, and takes in Mary Stevens Park. The walk is free must be booked on (01384) 815279.

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Pensioner hurt in travellers incident

A PENSIONER suffered a broken leg after being struck by a traveller's caravan in West Bromwich just hours after a group of 'abhorrent' travellers were ejected from a Kingswinford site. Residents in Old Meeting Lane confronted travellers who were trying to enter Jessons Playing Fields on Thursday night. Police have confirmed a 67-year-old man sustained a broken leg and was taken to hospital as residents tried to stop the travellers, who damaged a bollard in their effort to access the field. Police are trying to trace the driver involved.

Advice on mental health at a shop

DUDLEY and Walsall Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust has invited members of the public to visit a pop-up therapy shop in Dudley.

People can find out more about the Dudley Talking Therapy Service at the temporary shop in the Churchill Shopping Centre. The pop-up shop will be open on Monday – World Mental Health Day – between 11am and 2pm. Clinicians and health trainers will on hand to answer questions. The Talking Therapy Service supports those with problems such as anxiety, depression, panic or phobias.

Toy shop chain marks 35 years

TOY shop 'The Entertainer' is celebrating 35 years in business.

Each of its 126 shops, including those at Merry Hill, West Bromwich and Wolverhampton, will be holding in-store activities on Saturday, including competitions, balloons and sticker giveaways. There is a scratch card giveaway with every purchase. Visitors can also enter a competition for the chance to win the entire contents of the 2016 catalogue, worth more than £13,300.

February concert date for X Factor Live Tour

TICKETS go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for The X Factor Live Tour 2017 at Birmingham's Genting Arena on February 24.

Attended by more than three million people, The X Factor Live Tour has been one of the most successful annual arena tours in the UK.

Tickets for the Genting Arena date are on general sale from 9am from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222. Tickets are priced from £23.30 to £105.80 plus fee.

Jay's zoo promotion

DUDLEY Zoo's Jay Haywood has been appointed as assistant curator.

The 33-year-old started work at the Castle Hill attraction straight from school and has worked his way up to his latest promotion.

Jay, from Dudley, said: "It's a great honour for me as I love working here."

Sunday shopping visit for Archbishop



The Most Reverend Justin Welby

MORE details have been released of the Archbishop of Canterbury's visit to Dudley this weekend, which will include a trip to the Merry Hill shopping centre.

The Most Reverend Justin Welby will be at the centre on Sunday from 2.30pm. He will arrive at the entrance next to Argos and, along with local church leaders and members, will walk through the centre owned by Intu, stopping to talk to shoppers and workers.

The Archbishop will move through the mall to the atrium outside Marks

and Spencer, where he will lead a 'songs of praise' style service and give a talk. The event will conclude with popular hymn, Amazing Grace.

Pray

Bishop of Dudley, The Rt Rev Graham Usher, said: "I am delighted that the Archbishop of Canterbury will be visiting Intu Merry Hill shopping centre during his time in Dudley and Worcestershire."

"Intu Merry Hill is a major gathering place and contributes significantly to the local economy. Archbishop Jus-

tin will be asking shoppers and staff if he can pray with them and he will be sharing how the Christian faith inspires him daily."

The Archbishop of Canterbury is the most senior bishop in the Church of England, and Eton and Cambridge University-educated Mr Welby is the 105th.

He had worked in the oil industry before his ordination and served as a rector in Warwickshire, as Dean of Liverpool and then Bishop of Durham before becoming Archbishop of Canterbury in 2013.

Worst borough in Black Country for drug deaths

FORTY people have died as a result of drug abuse in Dudley in the last three years – making it the worst borough in the Black Country for drug-related deaths.

The NHS figures for 2013 to 2015 saw the borough, which has a population of around 312,000, as the worst in the region for drug fatalities.

Next worse was Walsall, where 31 died as a result of drug abuse. It was 26 in Wolverhampton, 18 in Sandwell and five in neighbouring South Staffordshire.

But despite the shock figure, Kerry Trinder, Black Country Services Manager of charity 'Change, Grow, Live' – who deal with drugs, alcohol and social care – said: "Substance misuse is not a widespread problem within the Dudley borough. In 2014, there were 1,054 Dudley residents in drug treatment. Our Change, Grow, Live (CGL) Atlantic Recovery Centre has had a huge impact on providing support and guidance to people to recover from drug addiction. Since 2014, the number of service users using opiates has remained stable within the borough."

The Atlantic House Recovery Centre has been run by CGL in Dudley since 2011. It offers substance misuse services, combining recovery models and teaching an ethos of harm reduction, which include medical assistance and psychological support.

Overdose

Kerry Trinder told of how a change in law had helped tackle the problem of drug users who overdose.

She explained: "One notable advancement has been a change in law, which, in October 2015, allowed the widening of distribution of naloxone. This is a substance which can be administered if a person overdoses on opiates. It works by temporarily blocking the effects of the overdose."

"Our Dudley service has issued each person who accessed the service for opiate misuse, and was identified as being at high risk of dying from a drug overdose, with a naloxone kit. This means should they overdose, they can administer naloxone themselves and potentially save their life."

In total, some 500 kits have been administered and five have been used to save a life this year. She added: "The key challenge for us is ensuring people know about the support they can receive from us."



Dance delight – Amelia Morgan, aged 12, of Wall Heath, will dance with Birmingham Royal Ballet in Cindrella Dreams at the Hippodrome next year

Ballet dream comes true

A YOUNG dancer has seen a dream come true after she was told she can dance with members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet.

Amelia Morgan, who attends the Gwynn School of Dance in Kingswinford, is thrilled after being chosen by the famed company to take part in a production next year.

The 12-year-old from Wall Heath, who attends Summerhill School, has been dancing since she was three.

She is among a select group of young Midlands dancers who will be given intensive training sessions with the prestigious company to take part in the performance Cindrella Dreams at the Birmingham Hippodrome in February.

Proud father Chris, an engineer, said: "Since she was seven she's wanted to perform for the Royal Ballet. We're bursting with pride for her – it's absolutely fantastic. She starts intensive training next month."

Mr Morgan paid tribute to his daughter's dance school boss Olga Gwynn and said that his daughter's dancing talent came from his wife Sharon.

Shoplifter who stuffed clothes into bag is caught

A WOMAN from Dudley was caught by a security guard as she tried to steal £450 worth of clothes from the Primark store at Merry Hill shopping centre.

Emma Gwilliams, of Ashenhurst Road, was spotted acting suspiciously in the budget fashion store and tracked on CCTV.

Gwilliams, aged 37, was told she must carry out 50 hours unpaid work after admitting attempting to steal the clothing. She was given a further 25 hours of unpaid work for breaching a suspended sentence.

Miss Heather Chamberlain, prosecuting, said a security guard at the shop spotted Gwilliams with another woman, a child and two baskets full of clothes. When he next saw her the baskets had gone but she had a large bag which appeared full.

The three were tracked using in-store CCTV and seen placing items into the bag. They were stopped as they tried to leave the shop without paying. Gwilliams told police she wanted the clothing for her children.

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, told Wolverhampton Crown Court: "This was an incredibly stupid act. She has a serious and dangerous problem with alcohol."

The court heard Gwilliams's suspended sentence was imposed after she was convicted of taking her husband's car without his consent.

Judge Mark Eades said shoplifting pushed up prices for everyone else. He added: "You know it is stealing. You were greedy because you tried to steal over £400 worth of goods."

Gwilliams has to pay £340 costs.

Man charged with killing his mother

A BRIERLEY Hill man has appeared in court charged with killing his mother, who died in hospital nearly a month after he allegedly pushed her to the floor on Christmas Eve.

Mark Jennens, aged 39, of Sorrel Walk, Brierley Hill, is facing one count of manslaughter and appeared before magistrates in Walsall last Thursday.

His mother, Hazel Jennens, died in hospital on January 20 after the incident on December 24 last year.

Jennens was bailed to appear at Wolverhampton Crown Court on Thursday, October 27, for a plea and trial preparation hearing.

Library shop to sell off old books

DUDLEY Library is opening a book shop to sell off its old stock. An area on the ground floor of the library in St James's Road is being transformed into Books 2 Go, which needs voluntary staff. Call (01384) 815560.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE Labour Conference quote of the week? It must be: "The socialism I believe in is everybody working for the same goal," from Jeremy Corbyn who, during 33 years in Parliament, has voted against his own party at least 500 times.

MOST significant moment of Conference came when one speaker said that, if Labour wanted to win a general election, it must attract some former Tory voters. Someone in the audience shouted: "Why? We don't want Tories." Behold, the problem for any political movement which puts high principles above common sense. The Left cannot gain power without mass support, yet some of them would rather reject new supporters than risk pollution from anyone less Left than themselves. Better powerless than impure, eh, comrades?

FOOTBALL, cycling, athletics, cricket. Is there any area of sport that is squeaky-clean? Here's an idea. Let's have an investigatory pause between any team or individual winning any competition and the award of the trophy. About four years should do it.

"I HAVE more roots than Kunta Kinte," said Eva (Catherine Tyldesley) on a trip to Audrey's hair salon in Coronation Street (ITV). Corrie has now been denounced for racism and Ofcom is to investigate. The bizarre part of all this is that Kunta Kinte, star of Alex Haley's book and TV series, did not have roots. He was the root. It was Haley, tracing his lineage back to Africa, who discovered his own roots, all the way



back to Kunta Kinte. The Corrie line was not only nonsense but an example of middle-class humour being put into the mouth of a working-class character and no-one in the editing process having the balls to say: "That's a really rubbish line. Cut it."

IF Eva had said: "I have more roots than Alex Haley," it would still have been an unlikely line to hear in a Lancashire hair salon but at least it would have made sense. And I doubt anyone would have complained. It was the uttering of an African name that caused offence (either genuine or feigned).

NOW here's a coincidence. On the very day that an open-air park for nudists was announced in Paris, the Australian state of Victoria declared mooning and streaking to be criminal acts. See? It is entirely possible to report this without using the phrase Down Under. Almost.

THANKS for your emails on the subject of American greetings we can well do without (Mexican wave, high-five, thumb-gripping etc). A reader says: "Don't forget that ridiculous greeting, the fist bump." As if we could.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Big Sam slated as Sir Bobby steps in

DISGRACED Sam Allardyce has been accused of being 'stupid' - as Sir Bobby Charlton stepped in to replace him at a ceremony in memory of football legend Duncan Edwards.

Civic leaders in Allardyce's home town of Dudley have spoken of their anger as the 61-year-old's 67 day tenure in the biggest job in English football came to a sudden end mired in scandal. 'Big Sam' was filmed as

part of a national newspaper sting, offering to advise bogus businessmen on how to get around rules on player transfers.

He was discussing with the undercover reporters a possible £400,000 advisory role, just after taking on the England job, reportedly worth £3 million a year.

Dudley South MP Mike Wood said it was disappointing Big Sam's home-

coming had been ruined. He said: "Dudley was looking forward to welcoming the England manager back home at the weekend. People were proud when a local man got such an important role in the national game."

"It is very sad that his misjudgement and basic stupidity has cost him the job he has dreamed of his whole career. His reputation has been left in tatters."



Sam Allardyce - apologised to FA

A fitting tribute to the perfect footballer

IT was a day of nostalgia for a golden age of football - and inevitable comparisons with a tarnished present era.

Above all it was a day of pride in a Dudley, England and Manchester United hero whose sporting talent was nurtured in Priory Park where crowds gathered on Saturday to see a plaque unveiled to Duncan Edwards on what would have been his 80th birthday.

Sir Bobby Charlton, who played alongside Edwards at both club and national level, performed the honours. Later former Wolves and Albion players joined guests in a gala at Brierley Hill Civic Hall where a video message from Sir Alex Ferguson was played. The former United boss said he had only seen Edwards play twice, both times in Scotland with the native Glaswegian quipping: "Neither was a good experience for me."

Complete

He continued: "I can only go by what Sir Bobby Charlton says about him, that he was the greatest player he ever played with."

Edwards, described by manager Matt Busby as the most 'complete footballer in Britain - possibly the world', was marked out for greatness after winning consecutive titles with United but died of injuries he sustained in the Munich Air Disaster of 1958 when a plane containing the United team slid off the runway in snowy conditions.

Aged just 21, Edwards had already played 177 games for Manchester United and become the youngest player, at 18, to be capped by England.

Cousin Laurence Brownhill, 73, said: "You always knew when Duncan was coming because you'd hear him kicking a tin can or an old brick. His mother used to tell him to stop ruining his shoes."

Sir Bobby paid tribute to his fellow Busby Babe in the gala dinner programme. He wrote: "To me, Duncan has always been the epitome of football."



Duncan Edwards' relatives at the charity gala night held at Brierley Hill Civic Hall to mark his 80th birthday



Sir Bobby Charlton chats to Duncan's cousin Eva Edwards



Duncan Edwards - best Sir Bobby played alongside

Customers launching campaign to save store

MORE than 100 people have signed a petition calling for the Sainsbury's in Merry Hill to be saved.

The petition was launched in the wake of company bosses announcing the supermarket at the huge shopping centre would close on December 30. In total 121 people had signed the petition by Sunday afternoon.

The supermarket giant has been trading at the centre for almost 17 years and closure will put at risk 193 jobs.

Bosses say that the store was 'underperforming' despite being a fixture at Merry Hill since opening in October 1989.

One shopper from Dudley, writing online, said: "I've grown up with Sainsbury's being an important part of Merry Hill. Save it - for the customers and staff."

A Sainsbury's spokesman said the company would 'look to redeploy people, wherever possible'.

"Like all retailers, we keep our estate under review to ensure our business is operating as efficiently and effectively as possible and to ensure we provide customers with the best possible service. We're now conducting a consultation process with all affected colleagues who we will support through the difficult period ahead."

Caroline Crolley, regional officer at Unite, criticised the company's decision. She said: "I am absolutely astounded. There had been no indication that this was going to happen. We are obviously going to be demanding a meeting with the company."

Marley musical on way to Brum

A NEW musical based on the life of reggae superstar Bob Marley is coming to Birmingham Repertory Theatre.

One Love: The Bob Marley Musical has been written by Kwame Kwei-Armah and will feature the Marley songbook, including No Woman No Cry and Exodus.

Endorsed by the Marley family, the musical drama will focus on his stardom in the 1970s when self-imposed exile in London led to a triumphant return to Jamaica to unite a nation that was on the brink of civil war.

The show runs at Birmingham Rep from March 10 until April 8, 2017, and tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday). See the website www.birmingham-rep.co.uk or call 0121 236 4455.

Busy road set to close for work on the drains

A BUSY road in Netherton will be closed for four days for drainage works to take place.

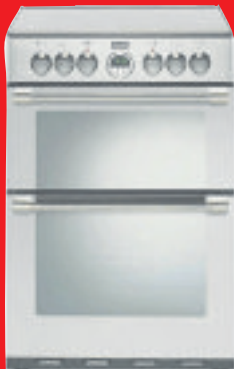
Saltwells Road will be closed from October 22 to October 25 near its junction with Saltwells Lane. A diversion route will be in place.

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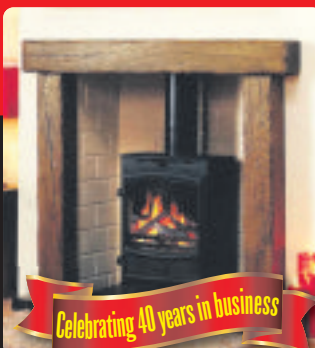


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Helping hand from house build firm

UNEMPLOYED residents have been given a career kick-start in house building by a national developer.

Ten over-19s from Dudley, Brierley Hill, Pensnett and Stourbridge completed a two-week Building Futures training programme with Waters Living Space Homes. Candidates, recruited through Dudley Council's adult community learning team, joined Waters at the new Butler's Crescent housing scheme at Tipton Road, where the developer is building 157 homes with Dudley Council and the Homes & Communities Agency.

Charity busking for good causes

A CHARITY busking event will be held at a cafe in Dudley.

Billy Spake Mon and Dave Coughlin are hosting the Buskin' for Charity at the Cosy Cafe, in Churchill Shopping Centre on October 22 from 10.30am.

Billy has invited many of his performer friends. John Langford, who hosts the Maverick Acoustic night every Wednesday at the Maverick pub in Amblecote, has already asked many of his regular acts to perform. All proceeds will go to local charities.

The pair present Black Country Radio's Omma n Chain Show.

New voices are sought by choir

DUDLEY Choral Society, who perform at the United Reformed Church Hall in Trinity Road, are beginning rehearsals for their Christmas Concert on December 10.

New musical director, Gary Cole, is keen to attract new members to come along and join the choir. There is no audition, they can just join in when they choir meet at 7.15pm each Monday evening. The group is also looking for a pianist. Call Mrs Anne Shirley on (01884) 259250.

American rock band Goo on at city venue

AMERICAN rock band Goo Goo Dolls are marking a 30-year career and their 11th studio album, Boxes, with a UK tour including a gig at Birmingham's O2 Institute in Digbeth next Thursday (October 13).

The band, which consists of singer-guitarist John Rzeznik and bassist Robby Takac, will be supported by Johnny Lloyd, former frontman of indie outfit Tribes, who is making a rapid return to the city following his recent gig at the Sunflower Lounge.

Festive fair at library

DUDLEY Library staff are planning a Christmas fair at the St James's Road library on December 10.

It will be held from 11am to 2pm.

The library last Friday took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning event in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support.

800 jobs axe with Plumb Center firm restructure

PLUMB Center owner Wolseley is set to axe up to 800 jobs as part of a restructuring that will see it shut 80 branches and a distribution centre.

The company is not yet saying which branches face closure. It has Plumb Center outlets in Wolverhampton, Walsall, Brierley Hill, Cannock, Smethwick, Kidderminster and Stafford, as well as a branch of Burdens in West Bromwich. The shake-up will cost the firm £100 million.

Wolseley said: "The closure of around 80 branches and one distribution centre is expected to lead to up to 800 job losses, the impact of which we will minimise through redeployment and attrition as far as possible. The programme is subject to consultation."

The group employs 6,000 people in the UK and operates across 750 branches. The firm said that in the UK, which accounts for eight per cent of its profits, the repair, maintenance and improvement markets had declined and growth was 'weak'.

Wolseley said the restructuring, the result of a review, is expected to generate £25m to £30m of annual cost savings when complete.

The group made the announcement alongside full-year results, which saw overall revenues rise 4.2 per cent at constant exchange rates to £14.4 billion. Pre-tax profit rose from a total of £508m to £727m, driven by the US, where the bulk of its business is.

The shake-up will also see Wolseley close one of its four UK distribution centres,

Inquest on victim of stabbing opens

THE inquest has opened into the death of a man who was found stabbed at his home in Netherton.

Simon Johnson's body was found at the property in Cradley Road, on August 11.

The body of the 41-year-old father-of-two was discovered after he failed to arrive at work.

He had been stabbed in the back several times, Black Country Coroners Court was told.

Four teenagers were arrested on suspicion of murder but have been released on bail until October 17.

Senior Coroner Zafar Siddique adjourned the inquest until November 28.

The medical cause of death for Mr Johnson was given as stab wounds.

Stinger brings car chase to halt

POLICE chased a car through Dudley in the early hours of Wednesday before stopping it using a tyre-bursting 'stinger' and arresting one man on suspicion of stealing fuel. A 24-year-old Dudley man was bailed.

U-turn over ban on street food sellers

COUNCIL bosses have made a U-turn on a decision to ban street traders from part of Dudley town centre – after deciding they play a vital part in regenerating the area.

Three mobile food units could have been forced to move on if proposals had been approved by the licensing sub-committee to remove High Street as a 'consent' street and make it a 'prohibited' area.

Around six traders had originally been relocated from their pitches following the regeneration of Dudley Market in 2014.

Fast food trader, Mark Smith, who trades as Mr Sizzle, said the move to ban street traders permanently could have seen the loss of his livelihood.

He said: "I feel ecstatic that the committee has de-

cided against banning us from that area. Mr Sizzle, along with the two remaining street traders, offers diversity and charm to the town centre.

"Just before the regeneration was going to start we were invited to a meeting and promised by officers that the relocation was only going to be temporary. However, we were then informed earlier this year that we may be prohibited to return under this review.

"A series of wooden posts were also installed in the positions we used to trade and my fixed electric-feeder pillar was removed. It seemed like it was a deliberate act to prevent the street traders from returning."

Mr Smith said that since moving from his original

pitch outside The Churchill Shopping Centre, business had fallen by a quarter.

Three of the other street traders left the town, and the remaining two – a doughnut and a tikka seller – were positioned next to Mr Sizzle.

Mr Smith added: "Because we had to move to Castle Street outside of Greggs it effected trade massively. But following this decision we will seeking to move back to the market place."

At the licensing sub-committee meeting Councilor Elaine Taylor said: "We are concerned that the power facilities have been moved, which indicates that a decision had already been made – therefore the power posts will be reinstalled."

Nearly 100 children at risk of sex exploitation

ALMOST 100 children in the Dudley borough are at risk of being sexually exploited, according to safeguarding experts.

The children, aged between 11 and 17, have been identified in an investigation that found a total of 95 children deemed to be at risk of becoming victims of child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Children's services are working to try to make sure the vulnerable youngsters are protected. Of the total, 16 were said to be at 'serious risk' and another two at 'significant risk'. The vast majority of the children – 87 – are girls.

The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board said the number of children deemed to be at risk had increased over the second part of 2015/16.

It has also been revealed that of 700 reports of missing children, 220 were 'known young people at risk of CSE'.

The under-fire children's services department is putting together an action plan to try to tackle CSE in the borough.

The department was slammed by Ofsted earlier this year, which rated it as 'inadequate' in areas including 'children who need help and protection'.

Dudley Council has rolled out several campaigns to raise awareness.

Suspicious

Taxi drivers have been urged to become the borough's 'eyes and ears' and report anything suspicious they see while out on the roads. Around 130 drivers have attended CSE awareness sessions so far.

Liz Murphy, independent chair, Dudley Safeguarding Children Board, said: "Tackling CSE is a shared priority amongst the council and Safeguarding Board partners and there are dedicated workers to support children and young people who are being sexually exploited."

"Similar to other local authorities, we have seen an increase in the number of children who are being identified as being sexually exploited or at risk of becoming exploited, this is the result of local and regional campaigns to increase awareness."

The Dudley Safeguarding Children Board said in its annual report that it needed to be 'constantly reflecting whether children in the area are safe and, if not, what more can be done'.

Fire engine crashes through wall



The fire engine crashed through a wall on the ring road at Stourbridge

Picture by Alex Taylor

A FIRE engine smashed through a wall on Stourbridge ring road while responding to a 999 call.

Five firefighters were left needing hospital treatment after the crash in the early hours of Saturday when a crew from Haden Cross community fire station were on their way to a road accident.

The vehicle was left hanging over the wall at the junction with High Street, Audnam. No other vehicles were involved.

Group Commander Neil Griffiths said: "The five firefighters were taken to hospital for precautionary checks.

Damaged

"There were some minor injuries but all later left the hospital and returned to their station, before going off duty. We will be giving the crew and their families all the support we can."

Mr Griffiths said the vehicle was left 'extensively damaged' but had been replaced with another vehicle from the fleet of West Midlands Fire Service.

Pictures posted on Twitter by eyewitnesses show the appliance had smashed through a brick wall.

Part of Stourbridge ring road was closed off for most of Saturday morning while a recovery operation was underway to remove the vehicle.

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Check out back yard for Turner art award

GREAT! Summer may now be over, and the nights starting to draw in, but who cares? It's also that time of the year when we can all head down the Big Smoke, roll up at the Tate Modern and admire the entries for the Turner Prize.

I love the Turner Prize, there is something delightfully egalitarian about it.

While all those other fuddy-duddy art competitions require you to be able to do something clever like paint a picture or sculpt a statue, with Turner there is none of that elitism. Never mind talent and all that, have you got a bag of rusty bolts, an old mattress and an empty fag packet? Great, you're in.

The big talking point this year comes from Anthea Hamilton, who wowed the judges with a giant pair of buttocks. The Tate says it brings "a surrealist sensibility to popular culture" and will "seduce the viewer with comic and unexpected combinations of images, materials and words".

Or maybe they are just talking out of their sculpture.

Meanwhile, Michael Dean is nominated for sculptures and installations made from "aesthetically-overlooked materials" like corrugated metal from a shop shutter. And Josephine Pryde presents New Media Express (Baby Wants to Ride), which examines the idea of "seductive qualities of the wider art world." Or a train set to you and me.

Sadly, though, the Black Country is unrepresented, which is a shame. Especially as I see so many potential Turner Prize entries at the bottom of people's gardens every Monday morning. Just before the tatters arrive.

□□□

WE keep being told we face an obesity timebomb. Youngsters spend all day glued to their computers, and not getting enough exercise.

So traditional playground games like tig and British bulldogs are just the sort of thing we should be encouraging, right?

Well, unless you're Tim Cook, headmaster of Hillfort Primary School in Liskeard, Cornwall, who has banned children running from one side of the playground to the other.

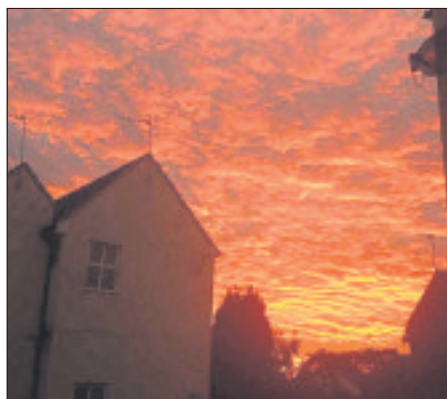
Apparently, the idea is to reduce the number of children ending up in the first-aid room. The what? Did they have a first-aid room when you were at school? From what I remember, if you fell over, you sat shame-faced in the corner until the bell and learned to be more careful next time.

Still Mr Cook said he had been 'proactive' - I bet he does 'workshops' as well - by organising activities that don't involve running.

"I left our Year Five class dancing to YMCA just last week," he beamed.

Can't wait to see the new school uniform...

Stunning sunset scenes are captured on camera



The scene in Heath Hayes captured by Louise Harborow

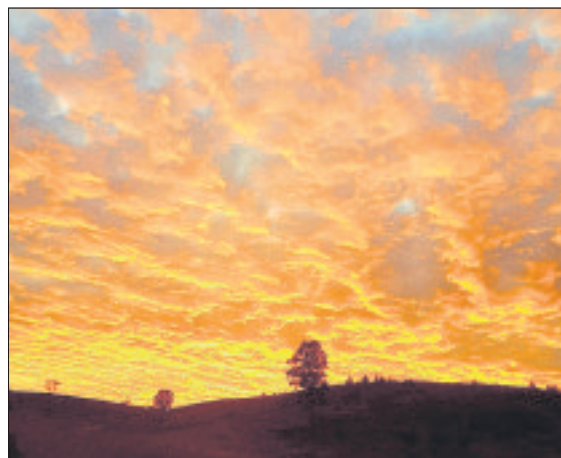


The serene Dudley Rowing Club at Lodge Farm Reservoir

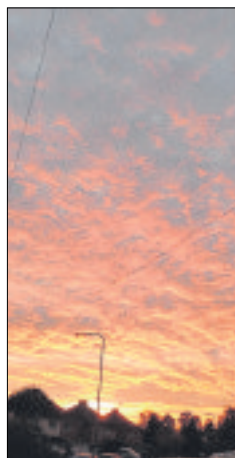


Stuart Cattell's photograph of the sunset over Short Heath

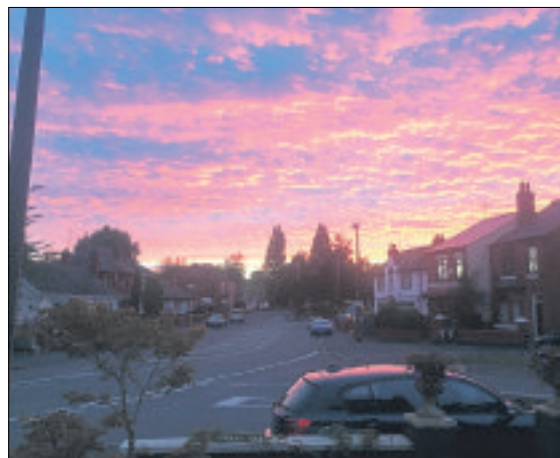
The red sky at night brings much delight



This dramatic shot was captured by bricklayer Glen Farrington



Sue Baugh's Billbrook scene



Andy Stokes took this shot of the sky above Victoria Park in Tipton

IT was a case of red sky at night, photographers' delight as hundreds seized on the opportunity to snap a picture of stunning skies.

Among the best of them posted online was the one taken by mountain biker Glen Farrington from Milford, Staffordshire, looking toward Stafford.

It was taken using a mobile phone - a Galaxy S7 Edge.

The 41-year-old bricklayer was out with his

Photographers came out in force to catch a glimpse of the dramatic skies last week. **SIMON STONE reports**

girlfriend Nicky George when he noticed the jaw-dropping skyline at 7pm last Tuesday.

Mr Farrington, who lives in Cannock, said: "We stopped from our riding and chatted before I looked up and took a picture on the phone."

"I didn't realise how well it had come out until I got home. The reaction I've had online has been quite something."

From fiery red to stunning pink - others were able to witness the dramatic sunset.

Centre

Hundreds of people posted pictures they had taken online following the sunset.

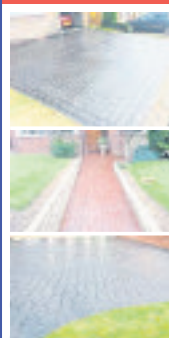
From Tipton in the heart of the Black Country, to the centre of Birmingham and Heath

Hayes near Cannock, the red skyline touched the whole region. Pictures also showed the stunning sunset above Lodge Farm Reservoir in Netherton, the home of Dudley Rowing Club, and in Short Heath in Willenhall.

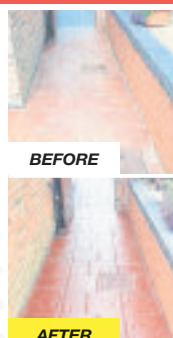
The old saying 'red sky at night, shepherds' delight' rang true, as clouds cleared for a dry next day.

A red sky at night often means fair weather is generally heading toward the country. It is caused by dust and small particles trapped in the atmosphere by high pressure.

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So where's that land of milk and honey?

VIRTUALLY no day goes by when a letter appears in the paper telling us how marvellous we have been doing since we voted to leave the EU and how good this decision was for this country.

The problem with all that is just the fact that we haven't actually left and that nothing has changed except the political upheaval in both main parties.

A long time ago, the Pilgrim Fathers made a similar decision, boarded the Mayflower and set sail to start a new life. The electorate, unlike the Pilgrim Fathers, found that

the ship they selected to board had a mutiny and most of the crew jumped ship forcing them to take on a new captain and crew.

Three months on, the boat chosen by the Brexiteers is still in the harbour and looks like it will be there for some considerable time. Please, all you Brexiteers, stop gloating and patting yourselves on the shoulder, telling all of us how good the decision was for this country. When you find that land of milk and honey then tell us all about it.

D SPECKNER
Dudley

Let's take some pride in our town

HAVING achieved Green Flag status, and proudly flying a flag, all due to volunteers of Friends of Buffery Park, it is soul-destroying to see litter and fly-tipping constantly spoiling this well-used green space.

The whole area is becoming a rubbish tip with even discarded furniture on people's front doors.

It is a blight for Dudley as a whole and, as the council can't keep on top of the problem, time has come to start enforcement.

As traffic wardens are now known as civil enforcement officers, surely that covers dropping litter. Instead of hounding drivers only, it's time litter louts felt pain with a fine. Community help in this would also be very welcome.

Dudley is a great town but needs looking after better. There are weeds and rubbish all over the place. Not really a good welcome for locals and visitors. Other towns seem to take pride of their parks, why can't Dudley?

PAUL WINCHURCH
Dudley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
Chronicle Editorial,
51-53 Queen Street
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

EMAIL

dudley.chron@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Time to be realistic and legalise cannabis

WHILE I agree with the proposals to advocate legalising the availability of cannabis for medicinal purposes, I believe that this is only one element of the wider discussion.

I would contend that because a large number of people need mood changing experiences in their lives, that legalising the availability of cannabis would provide an option to alcohol which would be less dangerous for the individual, the family, and society in general. In an ideal world perhaps there would be no need for such mood changing experiences, but the reality is that many people do have this need.

It is difficult to quantify the number of individuals

who would make the move given equal legal status. Many will say that any such move would afford the public the opportunity to engage in tandem use of drugs.

I would argue that, as most of us have finite amounts of money to finance such recreational indulgences, then this would be relatively low in number. The individual, the family and society in general would all benefit as a result of equal legal availability of the drugs.

I use neither alcohol nor cannabis, so have no personal axe to grind, but am concerned for many in society that would benefit from such a move.

L R FILD
Dudley

Readers help to save dogs

SEVERAL weeks ago The Chronicle and the Express & Star kindly published my letter asking for help to continue our support of Amicii Dog Shelter in Romania.

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has donated dog food, blankets, towels, collars, leads and so much more, as well as financial donations to the vet bills.

The response has been incredible, for which I am extremely grateful.

Unfortunately in Romania, dogs are treated as vermin. They are abused and tortured on the streets and in the vile public shelters in ways which we in our civilised country could not begin to understand.

Thanks to your support the dogs at Amicii are well cared for and safe.

MARION FISHER
Dudley Animal Rescue

Service for the elderly at risk

I HAVE received a letter from Age UK Dudley's Good Neighbours Scheme to say it will be folding in December due to the lack of funding by Dudley Council.

This is devastating news for volunteers, our clients and the good buddy telephone service. Can anyone out there fund our service?

It will be a great shame if we can't keep this great service going.

We are all going to get old. I guess that there will be nothing out there for you with all the cut backs that the council have made.

MRS J BENNETT
Dudley

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Doorstep robbery as pensioner is cut with knife in attack

A PENSIONER was held at knifepoint and cut on the face during a ‘terrifying’ robbery at his home in Netherton.

A man knocked on the 70-year-old’s door in St Peter’s Road and pleaded for cash to take his dog to the vets but when the sob story failed the thug pulled out a knife and pushed it under the man’s chin.

He suffered a two-inch cut, that required hospital treatment, as he was shoved backwards into the hallway and threatened. The thief went on to steal a wallet containing £115 in notes and £8 in loose change from the pensioner’s kitchen.

Talk on hero who saved Jewish lives

MEMBERS of the Black Country Society will be hearing about the exploits of the ‘Stourbridge Schindler’ Frank Foley.

The Vicar of Claverley, the Rev Gary Ward, will be guest speaker at the society event at the Black Country Living Museum, Dudley, on November 25 at 7.30pm.

The late Mr Foley helped thousands of Jews escape from Nazi Germany by issuing them with passports.

Working as a British intelligence office in pre-war Nazi Germany, he risked his life by breaking many Nazi laws. He entered concentration camps and presented visas to the camp authorities so that Jews could be freed.

After serving in the Second World War he retired to Stourbridge where he lived at Eveson Road in Norton until his death in 1958. He was accorded the status Righteous Amongst the Nations by Israel in 1999, and awarded British Hero of the Holocaust posthumously in 2010.

The suspect has been described as of white or Asian appearance, aged 30 to 35 years old, about 5ft 10ins tall and of medium build. He has short black hair and had a black scruffy beard. He spoke with a northern accent, possibly from the Newcastle area.

He was wearing a dark blue quilted jacket and black or navy trousers. The robbery happened on Wednesday night.

Detectives have launched an investigation into the robbery and which took place on Wednesday night.

Terrifying

Detective Constable Simon Willmott, of Dudley CID, said: “Thankfully the injury sustained by the victim was not serious but it was a terrifying ordeal for the victim, who has been left shaken by what happened.

“I would appeal to anyone who was in or around the area on the evening of Wednesday, September 28, and who saw anything suspicious.

“I am also eager for anyone who thinks they know the identity of the suspect to come forward.”

Police are following up numerous lines of enquiries, including forensics, speaking to witnesses and a CCTV trawl of the area.

Anyone with information should contact DC Willmott on 101.

GP of the Year winner praises teamwork



Eve Hill GP Dr Lucy Martin has won Dudley CCG’s GP of the Year award

A GP who is also a hospice medical director has received an award in recognition of her work.

Dr Lucy Martin has been named the GP of the Year at the Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group’s (CCG) annual awards ceremony for medical professionals in the borough.

Not only does Dr Martin work as a GP at the Eve Hill Medical Practice in Dudley, she is also medical director at the Mary Stevens Hospice, which provides palliative care services to patients and families in the Dudley Borough.

The Eve Hill Medical Practice team also won Practice of the Year 2016.

Dr Martin said: “I’m absolutely delighted to have won this award this year, and also that our practice has won Practice of the Year Award. It’s lovely to be recognised for the work we do.

“Of course all the work I am involved with helping patients who are at the end of life could not be done without the dedicated teams at the practice, the CCG, Mary Stevens Hospice and Dudley Group of Hospitals, who work together with me to make things happen.

“My wonderfully supportive husband, family and friends are part of that too.

“It’s a real honour and I’d like to thank everyone who contributed to this special recognition.”

To find out more about the work of the Mary Stevens Hospice, visit www.marystevenshospice.co.uk website.

Dummy prank sparked major emergency

A LIFE-SIZED dummy left in the middle of a Black Country road has been criticised for wasting emergency services’ time as they raced to the scene in the belief an accident had occurred.

Franksters had smeared ketchup next to the body, which was left in North Road, Tipton at 5.05am on Wednesday in an apparent attempt to recreate the scene of a crash.

The hoax has been blasted by police, who dashed to the street alongside colleagues from the ambulance service.

The dummy was dressed in a hoodie, with a jacket and ripped jeans.

Ketchup was splashed next to the dummy to make it look like blood was pouring from a head wound.

Chief Inspector Jack Hadley, from West Midlands Police, criticised whoever had left it for wasting emergency services’ time.

He wrote: “Someone has found it funny to place this in the road and had emergency services racing towards thinking it was a serious incident!”

“Numerous ambulances and police resources, including an armed response vehicle, attended the scene on blue lights.”

“Thankfully it wasn’t something awful but it certainly wasted a huge amount of resource time.”

Minor injuries for two drivers in crash

TWO drivers suffered minor injuries during a crash in a Brierley Hill street on Friday night. The men were treated for minor injuries by ambulance staff after the crash in Wallows Road. Both male drivers had managed to get out of their vehicles.

In a separate crash, a car had collided with a garden wall on the Northway in Sedgley, at around 8.45am on Sunday. No one was reported injured.



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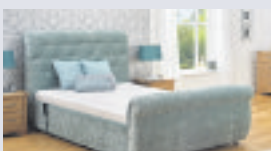
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Sun will come out for Annie stars



Isabella Cook and Izzy Westley-Smith share the title role in *Annie* at Brierley Hill Civic Hall with Molly as Sandy the Dog

ONE of the best-loved musical theatre shows, *Annie*, is being staged at Brierley Hill Civic Hall next week.

Brierley Hill Musical Theatre Company will perform Broadway hit *Annie the Musical* from Tuesday to Saturday, October 15.

The production team for the show includes musical director George Stuart and choreographer Anna Forster, who enjoyed excellent reviews of their 2015 production of *Guys and Dolls*.

They are joined this year by Adam Lacey, who is making his directorial debut for the company.

Following in the footsteps of Mr Strictly Come Dancing, Craig Revel Horwood, the group has opted to have a gentleman play the role of the evil, but hilarious orphanage matron, Miss Hannigan, in this case Mark Horne will bring her to life.

Isabella Cook and Izzy Westley-Smith share the title role, together with a very energetic bunch of orphans and a supportive ensemble.

Sarah Coussens plays Grace Farrell, while John Leaman takes the role of

Daddy Warbucks, and not forgetting Sandy the Dog, played by Molly.

The Saturday performances are already sold out but for Tuesday to Friday tickets, call 0845 658 8095 or visit the www.bhmtc.co.uk website.

Meanwhile, Startime Variety's Sheila Darby Award is presented by the theatre company to the member they feel has contributed the most in the past year and this year's recipient is Kirsty Aldridge, 29, from Netherton.

Kirsty, who works at Sports Direct and also sings on the local club circuit, has been a member of the group for 15 years.

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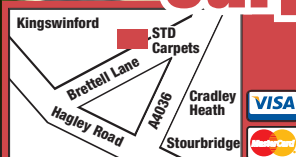
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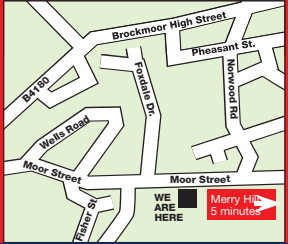


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FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL



A senior member of staff views the work taking place at the Rover Group's premises



An abandoned mission statement book in an office



Austin Allegros coming off the production line. The car was produced from 1973 to 1982



Workers seen from the 1980s at Longbridge



The shell of a Rover 75 which has been left abandoned since the collapse of MG Rover in 2005

Abandoned Longbridge's reminders of glory days

THESE pictures show how a huge car factory has been frozen in time since more than 5,000 workers were made redundant.

MG Rover collapsed in 2005, and now photos have emerged from inside its famous Longbridge plant in Birmingham more than a decade on.

Personal items have been abandoned in offices and there are still body shells of the Rover 75 on the production lines.

A photographer, who goes by the name Dab Hand, said it was a 'privilege' to see inside the factory which opened in 1905.

The urban explorer said: "It was completely untouched.

"To think thousands of people used to work there, and it's like it's been frozen in time.

"There were still body shells of cars on the tracks, newspapers from 2009 and personal things people had left in offices.

"I thought everything had been

MEMORY LANE

By David Cosgrove

scrapped or sold off, but it had just been left.

"It was quite sad but also a privilege to see, as Rover was a massive employer in its day."

The images are a sharp contrast to the bustling pictures from the 1980s.

In its heyday, the plant employed 25,000 workers.

There are now around 300 workers left in Longbridge, and in recent weeks Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation - who bought out MG Rover - confirmed it was now stopping assembly and moving everything to China.

With the stopping of assembly, 25 factory staff will lose their jobs.

They will be the last employees to have been employed to construct vehicles at the plant.

The photographer added: "It was so quiet in there.

"When a pigeon flew from the roof it echoed all around the building."



The most recent manufacturing activity at the Longbridge site



The production line of Minis seen in its heyday



Boxes with the MG Rover Group logo on them, strewn about the empty Longbridge plant

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Get rid of waste during winter

DUDLEY borough residents are being reminded that they can dispose of unwanted items at a household waste recycling centre seven days a week over the winter period.

As of last Saturday, the Dudley Council site in Birmingham Street, Stourbridge, will be open from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Sunday. Residents in the north of the Dudley borough who use the Wolverhampton Council-run Anchor Lane site in Coseley can also use that facility from 10am to 4pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and from 8am to 4pm on weekends.

People can use both sites to dispose of general household and garden waste in addition to recycling materials including paper, cans, and electrical items. Councillor Hilary Bills, cabinet member for environment, said: "These are brilliant facilities."

Disgust at travellers who used playground as a toilet

NEIGHBOURS and councillors were left disgusted after travellers moved on to a park in Kingswinford, leaving the site and a nearby playground in a vile state.

The playground, which is near Glynne Primary School, was sealed off amid hygiene concerns after children from the traveller encampment were seen defecating in the playground and using their socks for toilet paper.

The caravans at Cot Lane were finally shifted on Thursday around 4pm after a dozen police

officers arrived to serve travellers with notices ordering them to leave.

Parents of pupils at Glynne Primary were advised not to let their children use the playground until it had been cleaned.

Councillor Paul Brothwood, who represents Wordsley, was outraged by the actions of the group. He said: "You had people defecating on a public space. It was absolutely abhorrent."

Bags of rubbish, torn-up fencing and even an abandoned pram were among the piles of waste left by the group, which was left for Dudley Council staff to clean away.

There have now been calls to make sure travellers can't occupy the site and, if they do, that they can be moved on more quickly.

Up to a dozen caravans were on the land for more than a week before police intervened and in that time residents' say their lives were made a misery.

Christine Adams, aged 67, of Barnett Lane, beside the park, said: "It was a bit traumatic. One person would always be in the house, we were scared to go out. We weren't sorry to see them go but we are sorry for the people who will have them next."

Glee showcase for Irish star

WINNER of this year's Irish Choice Music Prize for song of the year, Dublin singer-songwriter Gavin James is in concert on Tuesday at Birmingham's Glee Club, in the Arcadian Centre.

Bitter Pill, the title track from his album, took the single prize for the 24-year-old who tops the bill at major venues in his homeland.

This summer he also supported his friend Ed Sheeran in front of 75,000 music fans at Croke Park in Dublin, toured the USA with Sam Smith and opened for Taylor Swift at Hyde Park. He has been seen on TV's The One Show and The Late Late Show with James Corden.

For details see www.glee.co.uk/venues/birmingham or call 0871 472 0400.

Today's the drey for squirrels



One of Dudley Zoo's red squirrels, England's dwindling native species of squirrel

TWO red squirrels have been brought to Dudley Zoo in a bid to help save the species in the UK.

Native red squirrels were once a common sight in the UK but have seen a rapid decline over the last 60 years, with many driven by destruction of the forest habitats and competition for food with the larger grey squirrels.

The two female squirrels will form breeding pairs with the Castle Hill attraction's resident males.

Conservation Officer Chris Leeson, said: "Red squirrels are naturally found across most of Europe, into northern Asia and Siberia, but here in the UK there are estimated to only be around 120,000 left and the majority of these are found in Scotland.

"Because of the ongoing threats the red squirrel is protected under the Wildlife and

Countryside Act and captive breeding red squirrel programmes like the one we're involved in are vital to species survival."

The females have been brought in from Drayton Manor and Welsh Mountain Zoo.

Their introduction ties in with Red Squirrel Week, which aims to raise awareness of the plight of the British native species.

Dudley Zoo have been part of a captive breeding programme for red squirrels since 1996 and in the past have released young squirrels into refuges in the hope of boosting numbers.

Red squirrels live for around six years and are typically six to eight inches long and weigh around 250 to 340 grams.

They do not hibernate but they lay down stores of food to see them through periods when fresh food is not available. Their diet includes seeds, flowers, leaves and fruit.

Five-a-side raises £3,600 for hospice

A FIVE-A-SIDE football tournament hosted by Dudley Building Society raised £3,600 for its charity of the year.

The competition, in aid of Mary Stevens Hospice, Stourbridge, was played on Tuesday, September 27, at Goals in Rowley Regis.

Ten teams comprised of local businesses, including ECA Group, FBC Manby Bowdler, George Green and Copthorne Merry Hill all took part, while the hospice also entered a team.

The eventual winners were Wolverhampton's Technology Management, who beat software firm, Ciphir, 2-0 in the final.

Raj Bains, the society's head of legal and secretarial, said: "A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who sponsored and supported the event. Mary Stevens Hospice carries out such amazing work and events such as this will hopefully contribute to them continuing an essential service."

Factory war effort work

THE role played by factories in the Black Country as part of the war effort is explored in a new exhibition at Bilston Craft Gallery.

'Work in Wartime' highlights the importance of local factories during both world wars. The exhibition features of archive images and original items including a very rare Unbeam military dispatch rider's motorcycle on loan from the Black Country Living Museum.

Work in Wartime runs at Bilston Craft Gallery until November 13 and is free.

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Investment fuels growth at print firm



Print manufacturer Custommark in Lye has completed its £465,000 investment programme in space, staff and equipment

THIS year has seen extensive growth for Lye firm Custommark with more than £465,000 of investment in space, equipment and staff.

Over an 18-month period Custommark has employed an additional 20 staff and invested in extensive new manufacturing facilities expanding production diversity.

As well as the head office based in Lye, the print specialists also operate from three other sites across the UK including Calne in Wiltshire, Cambridge and Oxford.

The investment has seen the Lye site benefit from three additional roll to roll digital printers as well as investment in a flat-bed digital printer, enabling the capability to print on to most materials, difficult shapes and intricate components.

Machines

Further investments at Lye include three new labelling machines costing a total of £120,000. Calne benefitted in a move to a newly refurbished factory.

Custommark was originally founded as a label printing manufacturer, however today its hosts a wealth of

printing technologies, producing a vast range of products from industrial labelling to commercial point of sale.

Custommark offer a wide range of print services including Screen Printing, Pad Printing, Digital and Rotary Flexographic.

Managing director Neil Turner said: "The investment programme has brought a huge amount of production diversity."

Custommark owner Greg Lerigo said: "Despite the Brexit vote, we still expect to see a return on our investment, which will allow for further development in staff and the business."



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The Free Wills Month charities are paying for a limited number of simple Wills. If your Will is complex, you can pay the solicitor for extra advice. There is no obligation to include a gift to any of the charities. The campaign is intended for those aged 55 and over.

freewillsmoth.org.uk

Now Kaiser Chiefs hit the dancefloor

ALBUMS

by Leon Burakowski

THE Kaiser Chiefs started out as rabble-rousing rockers, then morphed into a crowd pleasing pop-rock outfit as the Leeds band's lead singer Ricky Wilson became a family favourite via *The Voice*.

They regularly turn in good, if patchy, LPs but sixth album *Stay Together* takes them to a new level by blending their radio friendly rock sound with dance beats. Lead single Parachute fuses Coldplay-like anthemic rock with bouncy Euro disco catchiness.

There is a lyrical theme of dealing with domesticity and new responsibilities that will strike a chord with many 30somethings. Wilson also turns in some of his best vocal performances on songs like *We Stay Together* and new single *Hole In My Soul*, which should get thousands singing along at Barclaycard Arena on February 25.

Fans of the original Celtic soul brother will be delighted that *Van Morrison* has released his 36th album, his first of mostly original material in four years, entitled *Keep Me Singing*.

It's a slick and soulful affair with polished jazz and blues numbers. Every Time I See a River has Morrison collaborating with lyricist Don Black whilst closing instrumental Caledonian Swing features Morrison on piano and saxophone. Highlights include *Out In The Cold Again*, a gorgeous production in which Morrison muses over tinkling piano, and the positively jaunty *Look Beyond The Hill*.

LA indie rock favourites *Warpaint* find a new focus on *Heads Up*, an album that's a glorious blend of warped pop, Cure-like goth moods and



Kaiser Chiefs blend their pop-rock sound with dance beats on *Stay Together*

shoegazer guitar squalls propelled by funky rhythms from bassist Jenny Lee Lindberg and drummer Stella Mozgawa. Singers Emily Kokal and Theresa Wayman combine superbly, especially on the crunchy, edgy *By Your Side*, and on reverberant *The Stall*.

Exeter rock trio *Black Foxes* sometimes recall fellow Devonians Muse with their guitar bashing swagger and vocal histrionics from singer and guitarist Mark Holley on their debut album *I'm Not Well*. Check them out if you like Placebo. They play the Sunflower Lounge in Birmingham on October 23.

From Australia's Blue Mountains, singer-songwriter *Julia Jacklin* could appeal to fans of country-flavoured Americana and singers like Ren Harvieu and the uber-cool Lana Del Rey. Check out rocking new single *Coming Of Age* or the passionate Roy Orbison-like *Leadlight* from her debut album *Don't Let The Kids Win*. On third album *Dusk*, London duo Jack Cooper and James Hoare, under band name *Ultimate Painting*, deliver a delicious laconic take on jangly US guitar rock (think Byrds, Television). Key tracks include *A Portrait Of Jason* with its twang and the enigmatic *Skipool Creek*.

Only 14 months since his Mercury Music Prize nominated debut *Architect*, Scottish classically trained musician *C Duncan* returns with his second album. *Architect* was one of my favourite albums of 2016, a homemade masterpiece of gorgeous harmonious layers of melodic pop. *The Midnight Sun*, again featuring one of Chris Duncan's paintings on the cover, isn't as instantly appealing, though equally rich in melifluous atmosphere. It is a more melancholy affair which blends his vocals into the velvet wall of sound, more akin to Clannad than Brian Wilson.

The Pixies are back with their second album since 91's classic *Trompe le Monde*, also the second since a semi-reunion after the departure of bassist Kim Deal. *Head Carrier* is familiar blend of hard riffs, inscrutable lyrics and pop melodies, but lacking some of the energy and unexpected twists that inspired a generation of guitar bands. Paz Lenchantin fits in nicely as bassist and singer on *All I Think About Now*, while Joey Santiago and Black Francis whip up a storm on *Classic Masher*. Oona and Um Chagga Lagga. Catch them at Birmingham O2 Academy on December 8.

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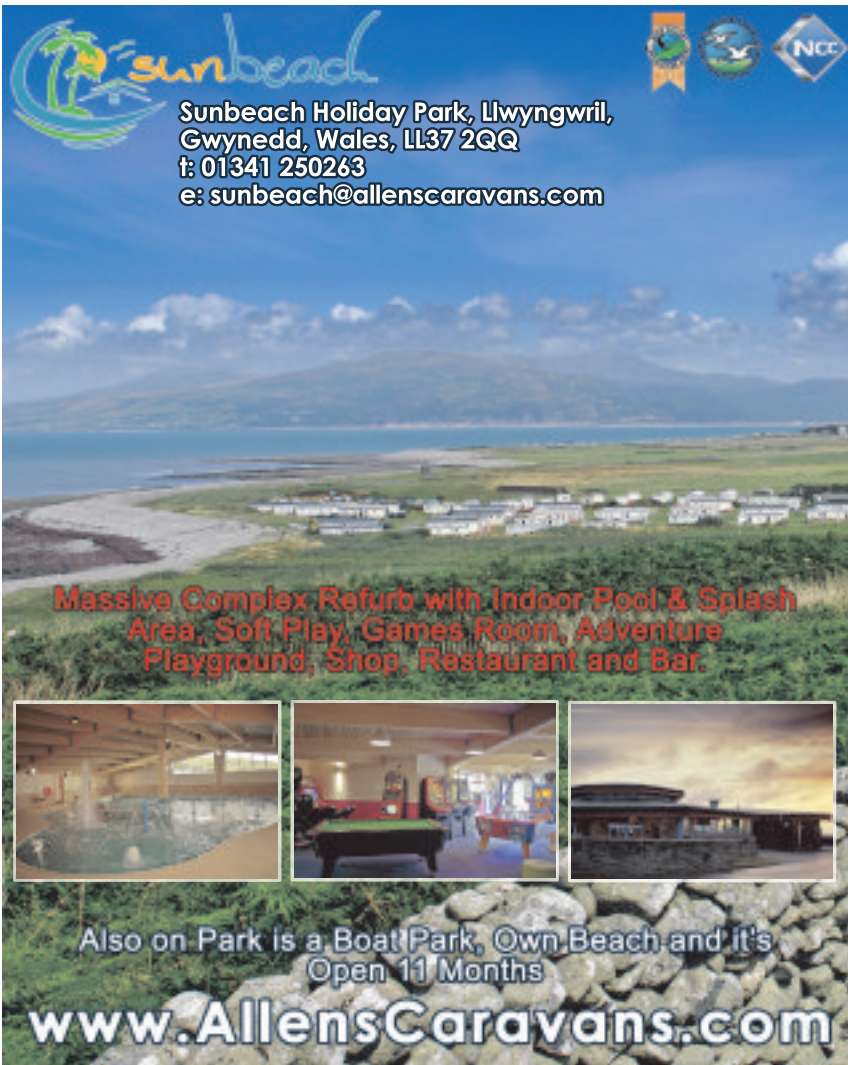
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40 brave elements to attend

Wollaston E TWG

THE first meeting after the summer break was held on a foul evening. Nevertheless 40 members braved the elements to attend.

Chairman Julie Willetts welcomed everyone including two new members, namely Julie Walton and Jennifer Thompson.

Jill Dunn will organise a board for members to sign if they are interested in a visit to Highgrove Gardens - permitted numbers per visit are limited at this venue. The next luncheon date is Bodenham Arboretum on Wednesday, October 19.

Miscellaneous correspondence was read by the secretary, including a note from Jessie Powell and Joanne Forrest thanking the guild for the lovely evening, on the occasion of their talk about vintage jewellery.

The club was informed that one of its members had won a reasonable prize in the guild national raffle.

The choir is shortly to begin rehearsals for the forthcoming carol services and have again been asked to perform at the Federation Carol Service.

Appreciation was expressed to speaker Carl Denning for his enlightening talk on the necessity for guide dogs for the blind.

An extra donation was given to this very worthy cause. Competition winners were Pat McEwan and Julie Willetts, while raffle prizes went to Chris Picken and Barbara Homer.

The next meeting is at 7.30pm on October 11 at St James Church Hall.

Twist in the tale of a life in crime

Wordsley M TG

Awards presented for long service

Grange (E) Guild

THE monthly meeting was held on September 6 at Grange Court, Prescott Road, Stourbridge.

Acting Chairman Chris Holton presided. She read the minutes of the previous meeting which were duly accepted and signed. Treasurer Jill Attwood gave an up-to-date financial report.

The Grange Guild Harvest supper had been prepared earlier by the committee and their helpers and then served to members. The two-course meal was thoroughly enjoyed and the evening was voted a huge success. Tea and coffee was then served by the committee.

The sales table consisted of seasonal produce and everything was sold.

The acting chairman had the pleasant duty of presenting long service

awards to members who had served for 25, 30, 40, 50 and 60 + years. This was a great surprise to the members with Chris giving a brief report on each member that had received these awards.

Some of these members had also been founder members with some of the ladies serving on Grange Guild committee and West Midlands Federation Committee.

A vote of thanks was given to committee members and their helpers for a lovely evening. The raffle was drawn and four lucky ladies received prizes.

Marlene O'Hanlon reminded members that the last collection for the shoe boxes would be accepted at the October meeting.

THE September meeting was opened by vice-chairman Ann Birchell who welcomed members and visitors.

The Federation report included a Christmas workshop on November 19 at the Ruskin Centre from 10am-4pm, a flower demonstration on December 7 and the annual carol service. The Christmas lunch outing on Monday, December 5, will take place at The Lodge, Wellington Road, Dudley.

A coffee morning is arranged for Wednesday, October 26, hosted by Pat Hadley. A day out at Boundary Mill is being arranged for Thursday, November 3.

Ann had organised a quiz prior to the annual Harvest sale. The next meeting, on Monday, October 17, from 10am, will be a very humorous, although sometime quite serious, talk entitled 'My Life In Crime'.

Dave Wilkins will be looking at some of the aspects of his time in West Mercia Constabulary with an entertaining look 'behind the scenes' all based on actual experiences and incidents - with a twist!

Ladies enjoy Harvest celebration

Kingswinford TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennell welcomed two visitors to the September meeting which was a Harvest celebration. So it was great regret that she announced the cancellation of the Federation Harvest Luncheon.

Following the usual necessary business, the celebration began. Harvest hymns were sung, Enid read a prayer, Ann read a poem and Doreen said Grace.

Hot dogs, cider or apple juice were served

by the committee. Members had contributed a large quantity of produce to the Harvest sale, which was disposed of quite quickly. A good time was had by all.

Sally was thanked for providing flowers for the chairman's table. On Monday, Alan Peace will talk about 'bus v bike' - a journey from Lands End to John O'Groats.

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Real ale festival held at four pubs

FOUR Black Country pubs are uniting a 12-day beer and real ale festival. Ale connoisseurs can enjoy five real ales from across the world alongside a selection of up to 15 beers from the UK during the festival at The Full Moon on Dudley High Street; The Abraham Darby in the Merry Hill Centre; The Clifton in Bull Ring, Sedgley; and The Waterfront Inn on Level Street, Brierley Hill.

The majority of the beers have been brewed exclusively for the festival.

Overseas beers have been sourced from brewers in Australia, South Africa, Italy and the USA.

The festival will run from Wednesday, October 12 to October 23 inclusive, with all beers priced from £2.05 to £2.45 a pint.

Nanette Young, manager of The Full Moon, said: "The festival is the perfect opportunity to showcase the wonderful range of British-grown hop varieties and support British hop farmers."

Hooray for a Dolly good musical show



Cast members of 9 to 5, from left, Natasha Bennett-Ince as Roz, Lexie Bennett as Doralee, Simon McGee as Franklin Hart Jr, and Maria Shee as Violet

THE hilarious story of three secretaries who wreak revenge on their sexist boss is coming to Wolverhampton.

The hit musical 9 to 5 is performed at the Grand Theatre by South Staffs Musical Theatre Company, who are celebrating 80 years of putting on shows around the area.

The production features original numbers from Dolly Parton's Oscar, Tony and Grammy Award nominated score, including Backwoods Barbie, Shine Like the Sun, and the smash hit, 9 to 5.

It centres on Miss Doralee Rhodes, a kind-hearted secretary who fantasises about lassoing her 'sexist, egotistical, lying, hypocritical bigot' boss and roasting him on a spit. Co-workers Violet and Judy, also bullied and demeaned by the vile Franklin Hart Junior, concoct a plan to get even with him.

The show launches on Tuesday, October 11, and runs until Saturday, October 15, with shows every night, plus matinees on Wednesday and Saturday. Tickets are £10.50-£20 and available from the Grand box office. Call 01902 429 212.

Views on cycle routes in transport survey

TRANSPORT bosses have launched a consultation on plans for improvements to Black Country cycling routes.

A survey has been started looking for residents' views on the Black Country Cycling and Walking Strategy and Implementation Plan, which has been commissioned by the four Black Country councils with Transport for West Midlands. Councillor Judith Rowley, lead member for fair and safe travel on the West Midlands Combined Authority's transport delivery committee, said: "We're aiming for a joined up approach to increase walking and cycling levels across the Black Country and the wider West Midlands and we need to know what people think. This builds on recent local investment in cycle lanes, walking facilities and successful initiatives."

The survey closes at 5pm on October 16. Visit <http://snapsurveys.centro.org.uk/snapwebhost.asp?k=146902228986>

Free heroin injections for addicts is slammed by MP

A GOVERNMENT approved scheme where heroin addicts can safely inject themselves in so-called 'shoot-up' rooms free on the NHS has been criticised.

The controversial treatment features in the Home Office's Modern Crime Prevention Strategy which was signed off by Prime Minister Theresa May in March when she was Home Secretary.

The idea behind the scheme is to give addicts a place that they can use the drug without the danger of it being

cut with impure, possibly deadly substances.

But the method has been slammed by Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin who said: "Decent people who go to work and pay their taxes will be appalled to discover Theresa May wants to use taxpayers money to give drug addicts their fix."

Prison

"Instead of this crazy nonsense, she should reverse the cuts to the police so they can put drug dealers in prison and stop them causing this misery in the first place."

Backers of the scheme say that for a

small cohort of entrenched, long-term opiate users who have not achieved recovery any other way, there is evidence that supervised heroin injection reduces crime.

Trials took place in England during 2011 and a European-wide study was published in 2012 which reported positive results but said it would be expensive.

A Department for Health spokesman confirmed that the technique was used in Britain but in 'very rare' cases where all other treatment 'had failed.'

He added that only specialists with a Home Office licence could oversee the injection of heroin.



Ian Austin MP - appalled

Folk fans flock to the Red Lion

WINNERS of the best duo title in the 2015 BBC Radio Folk Awards, Josienne Clarke and Ben Walker, are in concert at Birmingham's Red Lion Folk Club on Wednesday.

They release their new album, Over-night, tomorrow (Friday).

The following Wednesday, October 19, duo Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tiddow play the folk venue at the Red Lion pub in Kings Heath.

They released their latest album, Shad-ows, in the summer. It was the follow up to The Hum, one of the top folk albums of 2014.

Forthcoming acts at the Vicarage Road venue also include Coope, Boyes and Simpson, Andy Irvin, The Fair Rain and Vin Garbutt. See redlionfolkclub.com for details.

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Give wildlife helping hand as winter approaches

WHILE homeowners are looking forward to spending a cosy autumn in the warmth of their homes, a housebuilder is asking them to spare a thought for the wild creatures facing a cold few months outside.

Taylor Wimpey teamed up with the Wildlife Trusts earlier this year, giving advice to residents to help them make their gardens nature-friendly during the spring and summer – and is now offering a host of helpful hints and tips to give wildlife a helping hand as winter approaches and the temperature drops.

Birds, bats, frogs, hedgehogs and insects all need to find a welcoming winter retreat – and here's how homeowners can do their bit:

- Be an early bird: You might think the ideal time to put up nest-boxes would be spring, but it's actually early winter. Blue tits and great tits will begin looking for nest sites in late winter so get your box up early.

- Feeding time: Whether you make your own bird feeder or buy one, feeding garden birds in winter can make a real difference to their survival. In the coldest weather fat balls are a great source of food and providing foods such as sunflower seeds will ensure your garden is popular with greenfinches and chaffinches as well as blue tits, great tits and – if you are lucky – coal and marsh tits. If you put the feeders near a house window you can enjoy bird-watching from the comfort of your home!

- Hedge your bets: Planting trees or hedge plants such as hawthorn, rowan and holly will provide berries for birds in winter as well as places to nest in the spring. Winter is the best time for planting, although you need to choose a day when the ground is not frozen!

- Heaps of help: A log pile or a compost heap is also a good option – hedgehogs love places like this in winter. These structures need to be maintained to make them appealing and safe, but be extra careful when clearing up – you never know if a pile of autumn leaves is hiding something vulnerable. Compost heaps are also good at generating the types of insect that bats like.

- Hotel hideaways: Hibernating animals need somewhere sheltered where they won't be disturbed all winter. Check out the Wildlife Trusts' activity sheets at www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/activity-sheets. These include advice on making a hibernaculum, an insect hotel, or other hidey holes for wildlife – mostly from household odds and ends.

- Bats love bugs: Grow plants with flowers that are likely to attract moths and other night-flying insects as this will increase the food supply for bats (white or pale coloured flowers are more likely to be seen by nocturnal insects) – and be more tolerant of bugs in general! A few caterpillars will not cause much damage but they will turn into a juicy meal for a bat.

- Give a bat a home: Bat boxes can be purchased from garden centres or made from unplanned wood that has not been treated with wood preservatives. Choose locations (tree trunks or walls of buildings) with a sunny southerly or westerly aspect and avoid placing boxes above doors or windows, or anywhere that the bats might be disturbed by people or pets.

- Peace, man: Be aware of the sorts of places that bats use as shelter – dark places, such as in hollow trees, roof spaces, under tiles and soffits, loose bark on trees, or in splits in the trunks and branches of trees – and do not disturb them.

Find out more at www.wildlifetrusts.org/how-you-can-help/wildlife-gardening.

Carl Cooke, regional sales and marketing director for Taylor Wimpey, says: "With the colder months fast approaching there's plenty homeowners can do to help the wildlife on their doorstep."

"By following a few of our handy hints, homeowners can look forward to observing the winter visitors to their gardens and also enjoy the satisfaction of knowing they're helping to protect the natural environment in which they live. As a responsible housebuilder, we're delighted to be working with the Wildlife Trusts as part of our commitment to enhancing the wildlife habitats where we work."

Janel Fone, director of marketing and development at The Wildlife Trusts, says: "Winter is a tough time for wildlife, but nature-friendly gardening can give wildlife a hand through the colder months."

"Although tempting, avoid over-tidying your garden this autumn – you'll be amazed how useful dead vegetation can be for wildlife. Nature is incredibly adaptable and resilient; insects can find homes in old plant stems and hungry birds feed on dead seed heads."



Plumbago flowers in dense clusters from summer to late autumn

This evergreen shrub will flower late into the season

BEST OF THE BUNCH - Plumbago

This frost-tender, scrambling or climbing evergreen shrub bears long-tubed flat flowers in dense clusters from summer to late autumn. The bright matt-green leaves provide the perfect foil for the sky-blue, pure white or deep rose-pink flowers and the plants look good for most of the year.

In mild areas, grow plumbago over a pergola or arch, or against a wall. In cooler areas where temperatures fall below 7C (45F), they'll do better in a container in a sheltered, sunny spot and moved under cover in winter. Grow them in fertile, well-drained soil in full sun or in containers of loam-based potting compost, and top-dress or re-pot in spring. The most popular, *P. auriculata*, grows up to 6m (20ft), producing flower clusters up to 15cm (6in) across. Tie stems in to support as growth proceeds.

WHAT TO DO THIS WEEK

- Sow sweet peas in pots and overwinter the plants in a cold frame to plant out next spring.
- Continue to water outdoor crops such as tomatoes, beans and courgettes to encourage more fruits to ripen.

- Continue blanching leeks, covering plants with tubes of cardboard or drainpipes.
- Wrap trench varieties of celery with newspaper and draw earth up around the stems to blanch them ready for cutting in late autumn.
- Cut down faded and dying flower stems from border perennials, tidying up plants.
- Plant tubers of anemone 'De Caen' and 'Saint Brigid' at intervals, to extend their flowering next spring.
- Plant evergreen shrubs or hedging plants while the soil is still warm enough to help them establish before winter.
- Lift and divide congested clumps of perennials, replanting healthy segments of new growth.
- Take hardwood cuttings from roses.
- Continue pruning peaches to remove all shoots that have carried fruit, then tie in new shoots to replace them.
- Where grass is thin, over-seed with a suitable grass seed mixture.
- Make sure greenhouse heaters are in good working order.
- Order new fruit trees and bushes to plant later this autumn and winter.

All change as trees adapt to the arrival of autumn

ROSS UNDERWOOD

Head Gardener at Hodnet Hall



MY children love the autumn. When I take them out on a bike ride or to walk the dog they adore stopping to pick up leaves, fallen beech mast and the jewel in the crown – conkers!

There are plenty of leaves for them to kick around in already and usually by the time we come home their pockets are stuffed with the treasures that they have collected.

When I think back to the display in spring and early summer it seems such a short time since the chestnuts were in flower and the limes were giving off their intoxicating scent as late as July. Now they are in fruit and it would be easy to talk about autumn fruits, after all this is the season of "mists and mellow fruitfulness".

As I walk around with my kids it is the different shapes of the leaves that catch my attention. The leaves that have been pushed into piles or into corners by the wind that my children love to throw around. Those leaves have been with us all year but now that they are turning from their uniform green to multitudinous shades they have come back to the forefront of attention. But why should there be so many different leaf shapes in nature and why do they differ even on the same tree?

Food

To a plant, leaves are food producing organs. Leaves "absorb" some of the energy in the sunlight that strikes their surfaces and also take in carbon dioxide from the surrounding air in order to run the metabolic process of photosynthesis. This is how plants make their food. The green colour of leaves, in fact, is caused by an abundance of the pigment "chlorophyll" which is the specific chemical agent that acts to capture the sunlight energy needed for photosynthesis. An important "waste product" of photosynthesis is oxygen.

Most leaves can be roughly divided into two broad categories, they are either broad and flat (like oak leaves) or needle-shaped (like pine needles). Both kinds of leaves absorb light and CO2 to make the energy required for growth and both kinds of leaves can serve as food or as habitat for a great variety of other creatures.

The shape of a tree's leaves are in many cases a combination of the ecological history of the tree species going back over thousands of years as well as doing the practical job of supplying the plant with what it needs. This is a delicate balancing act for just as the plant is getting what it needs it needs to avoid becoming too hot or losing too much water through its leaves.

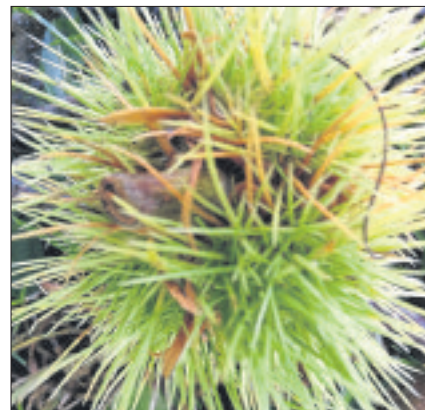
It is important to consider the whole tree and the particular ecological niche or habitat that it occupies. Leaves high in the tree canopy receive a great deal of sunlight.



Leaves are turning from their uniform green to multitudinous shades and have come back to the forefront of attention



Plenty of leaves to kick around in on autumn walks



Conkers – one of the season's treasures

These leaves tend to be smaller in size and tend also to have complex edges and lobes (which enables them to disperse absorbed heat very rapidly). Leaves in the lower tree canopy are more shaded. These lower canopy leaves tend to be larger (more light absorptive surface area) and tend to have reduced lobes and edges. These trends may be observed in comparing the leaves of high canopy trees (like oaks) to the leaves of low canopy trees (like dogwoods). The smaller upper canopy leaves also allow significant amounts of light to pass through the upper canopy in order to keep the lower leaves

supplied with sufficient light to allow their continued photosynthesis. When you stand under different trees and look up you can also see different types of arrangements of leaves.

Some trees like cherries arrange their leaves so that no leaf is shaded by another whilst much taller trees have leaves which are shaded by others above which accounts for them having smaller leaves at the top and larger ones at the bottom.

Needle-shaped leaves don't absorb as much light and don't tend to give off too much water. Trees with needle-shaped

leaves are especially well suited to sites that have drier soils and to climates in which the careful conservation of water is an important survival strategy. Needle-shaped leaves also differ from broad leaves in that needles often last for three or four years before falling while broad leaves only "live" for a single growing season. These evergreen needled trees, then, have a great advantage over the deciduous broad leaved trees in that they can get food whilst the deciduous trees cannot.

There's a lot to think about when you take the kids for a walk!

Backing for Aldi on Focus site

RESIDENTS expressed their delight at the prospect of a new Aldi store in Kingswinford at a consultation event.

The supermarket is to be located on the site of the former Focus DIY, off Dudley Road, and it is expected to create around 40 full-time and part-time jobs.

Those visiting at a public exhibition of the plans at St Mary's Church Centre on Wednesday shared their views on the proposal.

Philip and Ros Tidmarsh, who live on Cherry Tree Road, said: "We are very happy about it. At the moment we have to go to Brierley Hill to do our shopping. This is going to be right on our door step, so we can walk to it."

Elaine Hawkins, who lives on the Ploverdale Estate, said: "We are happy that the site is going to be used, as otherwise it will be an eyesore."

The store would include a 107 car parking spaces.

Dancing delight for a diamond couple



Celebrating – Gerry and Sheila Hart, of Stourbridge

ASKING a friend if he could have a dance with his partner turned out to be the best decision Gerry Hart ever made. That's because the lady in question became his wife of 60 years.

It was back at Hull City Hall that Gerry first met Sheila at a dance, when he was in the merchant navy.

The 80-year-old said: "She was actually dancing with one of my mates. I asked her out and she said yes."

From that moment the couple enjoyed dancing together, including at their wedding on September 29, 1956. They took to the dance floor at their silver and golden wedding celebrations.

Gerry's career at sea saw him travel all around the world and spend time on oil tankers. From 1964 he worked in engineering.

Sheila was registrar for births and deaths at Wordsley Hospital. The pair who live on Cot Lane in Stourbridge will be going for a family meal to celebrate their latest milestone. They have three children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

New Sunday market launched on car park

A NEW street market has been launched in Dudley with council leaders saying it will help revitalise the town centre.

The Black Country Market and Car boot sale, backed by Dudley Council, will be held every Sunday on the Flood Street Car Park.

The market was officially launched by council leaders on Sunday, October 2, and dozens of traders, shoppers and dignitaries from the town attended, though not invited guest Wolves skipper Danny Bath who was unable to attend due to club commitments.

Councillor Kurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "I am absolutely thrilled with the new market. I believe 25 traders attended on the weekend but I expect more to turn up next week.

"Give it four to six weeks, and hopefully the market will be the central attraction in Dudley."

£365k is paid out to chief who left regional crime job

A BOSS in the office of the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner received £365,000 as part of a pay-off after leaving her job.

Jacky Courtney, left her role as chief executive on April 30 last year as part of a shake-up following the election of David Jamieson.

Mrs Courtney, who had served as chief executive to the old West Midlands Police Authority for seven years, received a £74,600 'loss of office' payment as well as a £278,900 contribution to her pension pot.

Additionally, she was paid £11,500

in salary and fees for approximately one month's work and received £500 worth of benefits, to total just over £365,000.

The pension payment was made as part of the generous Local Government Pension Scheme that means public sector employers must make all the contributions that would have been paid into the fund up to the employee's normal retirement date, even if they have to leave their job. As chief executive she was paid £109,300 and had an Audi company car.

The PCC's publicly available accounts state Mrs Courtney 'retired' but it is understood that she was

made redundant in a restructure by Labour's Mr Jamieson, who became commissioner in 2014 following the death of Bob Jones, a former Wolverhampton councillor.

Jonathan Jardine replaced Mrs Courtney as chief executive on a salary of £79,200 and no company car.

A West Midlands PCC spokesman said: "The office the PCC inherited was from the bloated and unaccountable days of the police authority, where some members of staff were paid very high salaries and everyone got first class travel. But since the election of the police and crime commissioner in 2014, things have changed."



Jacky Courtney – pension

Governor angry at warden cut

A SCHOOL governor has blasted proposals to axe lollipop wardens across Dudley borough, saying the move could put children at risk. Crossing patrols will disappear from outside school gates unless schools stump up cash to pay for them.

Abdul Qadus, a governor at Wollescote School, who also sits on Dudley Council's children's services committee, claims it is unlikely many schools will be able to afford to pay for crossing wardens. They will be axed from April, under the plans, saving the authority around £260,000 a year.

Father-of-four Mr Qadus said: "If they can afford to pay thousands of pounds for directors, why can't they pay for the safety of children?" Councillor Hilary Bills said: "This service like many other non-statutory services is being reviewed due to ongoing funding cuts by central Government."



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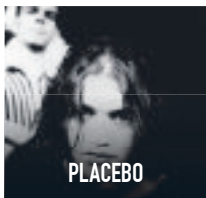
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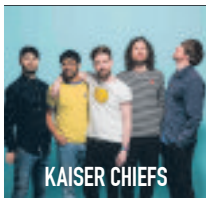
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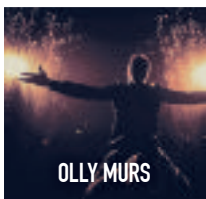
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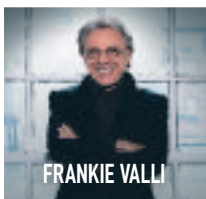
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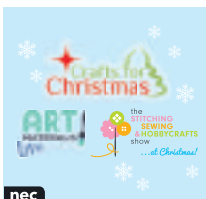
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On the road like living in a bubble

We're laughing before we even start.

Ross Noble's publicist passes the comedian the telephone after issuing me with strict instructions he should be off the phone at an appointed time so that he can be interviewed on radio. So when Ross picks up the phone, I make a joke of it.

"Ross Noble, you only have so many minutes to tell us all about Brain Dump and answer 13 other questions. Start."

He laughs. And so do I. And then he starts to explain his tour, which started with warm-up shows at Telford's Oakengates Theatre and is in Birmingham for two nights at the New Alexandra Theatre on October 17 and 18.

The title is classic Noble. It's turning a negative into a positive through his surreal, stream-of-conscious, dyslexic brain.

"Brain Dump does exactly what it says on the tin. Whatever is in my head, I'm dumping it out there. It came about after somebody left a review on Amazon for one of my DVDs.

Massive

"There were loads of really good reviews and then there was one negative from a person who obviously didn't like my style. He would obviously have enjoyed a more linear style of comedy. He was incensed by my routine, which is fine, you know, not everyone's brain works in the same way and with my stuff you need to have a certain mindset for it to appeal.

"This person had basically expected something different and taken exception when it wasn't. I think they were hoping for a stream of well thought-out one-liners but that's not what I do.

"So they wrote on Amazon that the DVD was like a big, massive brain dump. And though they were trying to be critical, I thought it was quite good. What was intended as a put-down was taken as a compliment. So I decided to run with it."

Ross doesn't have many ideas about what he'll talk about. He'll leave worrying about that until the night before the tour. "It's all just basking it. I usually write stuff down after the show - rather than before - and some of it is quite good."

"I write them down on a piece of paper, then I lose the paper, which I find a year later. And on the paper it will say something like 'disco eggs'. And I think 'what the hell is disco eggs'? That sets my mind going and I'll come up with

something completely unrelated to what the thing was in the first place. If you don't get too locked down in the detail you can keep your mind open and spinning."

I ask Noble if he's a good tourer, by which I mean: does he enjoy being on the road? And, in typical Noble-style, he takes it a completely different way, imagining I'm asking him whether he's a caravan.

"I remember the caravan club: 'I always make sure my chemical toilet is adequately ventilated'. And then he laughs at his own absurdity and answers the question about whether or not he likes being on the road.

"When I'm at home, I have two small children so I'm a bit busy. But when I'm on tour it's great. I can have a bit of a lie-in and do stuff instead. It's hard, I miss my family, but at the same time there's a lot more time on touring for staring out of windows and drifting into your own head.

"People who are on the road live in a bubble. You become the child and don't have to think for yourself. I am taken to a hotel and if it's 2am and I want ice cream I say to someone: 'can I have ice cream please?' and they bring it.

Horror

"I've tried doing that with my wife when I'm back home. I ring her on my mobile if she's downstairs and I'm in the bedroom. I ask her to bring me cheese and biscuits up to bed. And then I tell her not to swear at me." And we both laugh.

Time runs away quickly as Noble prepares for his killer radio interview, which, it has to be said, won't be a patch on this. So we use the remaining time for a quick Q&A.

He stars in horror movies as killer clowns, when he's not on the road, and thoroughly enjoys it. "I love that stuff. We did a horror film last year which should be out next year or later this year. I've also written and am directing and starring in a one-off horror for Sky. That's going to be out in Halloween week. Keep an eye out for that."

He's also a regular on Have I Got News For you and famously sat alongside Paul Merton when the two of them were so rubbish that they scored nil points.

He laughs about it. "Before we went on, I said to Paul 'let's try and get zero points'. He wrote about it afterwards in his book. It was so hard to get no points because if you say anything vaguely near the truth they give you a point. It was good fun and Paul's



Ross Noble took a DVD critique and ran with it

brilliant. There's not many people who are as funny as him and can also put an extra layer on it by getting it all wrong and mucking around."

Noble is dyslexic - a condition that has been more of a blessing than a curse. "It's one of those things that means your brain works in a slightly different way. I find it a little bit tricky with the directing because there's a lot of writing and stuff and scripts.

"That's quite hard. I find that hard. But yeah, if I hadn't have had to find ways around dyslexia I probably wouldn't have ended up doing this. I'd say to any kids who are dyslexic, just find your way round it."

Noble had a farm after moving to Australia. It burned to the ground in a huge fire, leaving him with nothing. "It was a big fire. It wiped out the whole lot. The thing I remember is having to buy new pants. I literally only had one pair because the rest had burned. It is an extreme way of buying new underwear. But that was that, I only had one pair."

He also loves motorbikes. "I do. I did a thing travelling around Devon for a week on a big adventure bike. We had nothing but rice pudding to eat. My friend and I slept rough by the side of the road and made a film about it. Hopefully we'll put that online soon."

The clock's ticking and there's time for one last question. It's about his fans and the type of relationship he enjoys with them.

"In terms of the actual fans, I very rarely get any bad stuff. You hear all the horror stories from other people but it doesn't bother me. Everyone's cool. When I'm out and about in the daytime, people just come up and have a chat. I think they find me approachable because I'm just a bloke who talks b*****g.

"This morning, for instance, I was in a cafe next to the BBC and the woman at the counter told me my sandwich would be less if I had a BBC pass. The woman next to me in the queue recognised me and leant me her pass." Ah the joys. Life's sweet when you're Ross Noble. Happy Days.

By Andy Richardson

Dave Beating drum for band return

It is what all fans of the band want to hear, Dave Wakeling and his latest companions are back marching to The Beat of their own drums.

The boys, originally from Birmingham, are back out on tour as The English Beat and recently played Bilston's Robin 2 supported by Walsall band The Assist.

They have a new album out this month and another due next year and things are looking pretty good. We had a chat with frontman Dave Wakeling to discuss the renaissance.

You're returning to your local area, how do your shows compare here to in other places?

It feels like it's a homecoming. You always want to do your best shows there. It's really about creating an atmosphere, people have known us for years, they sing along to the words and the aim is to connect with them and it makes it easier when a show has that comfortable, hometown feel to it.

When you started in 1979 your songs touched on themes of social, political and musical upheaval, is that still what drives your band?

Pretty much yeah. I have a song on the new record that has a political element within it just like songs have before. We don't behave very well as a species do we? We've spent more time trying to kill other people and their children than we have trying to raise our own. It's a shame, when you're a young person and you're writing songs about political changes you're hoping that everything will get better really quickly, but then as you get older like most



people you start to realise that this change takes a little bit longer and some of the stuff we were singing about when we started just continue happening in front of people. The issues we covered when we started still affect millions of people today, and music can be seen as a call to arms when addressing these issues.

Over almost 40 years of your career your line-up has changed a lot, you've all done your separate musical projects and now you are the last remaining original member of The Beat, how has that affected the band and it's style?

The Beat has always been changing, to me it doesn't matter how big your songs get or how well known you become you've always got to make changes. Sometimes for the band it's so much work alongside these changes but the last few months it's been an absolute pleasure.

Do you still keep in contact with any of the original members?

Yeah we've spoken and met up lots of times since we've gone our separate ways. We sort of have to with interviews and uses of our music and albums so that sort of brings us back together talking. Our relationships with each other are all fairly smooth.

Do you think you'll ever join each other on stage again?

I don't know about everyone, some don't set foot on stage anymore, but some - definitely yes. To us now in the band it's just second nature to get on stage.

What can we expect from your new live shows? Will there be new music?

Yeah, there'll probably be two or three new songs. You've got to be careful how many you do because it's the first time some people have ever heard it and you can lose some people's attention if it's not a fan favourite. In England the first album seems to be the most popular so there will be songs from there for sure mixed in with the new songs. We've been getting great reactions from our latest shows, some people have been coming up to us and saying that our setlists have been the best from any of our tours.

Finally, what's next for the beat?

Our brand new album Bounce comes out on September 30, then we'll be bringing out a new album in February and then we'll be coming to England in June to promote the album.

fast the ticket

Feline fine

War story with a twist
See Page 25



Brothers in arms
See Page 25



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Mississippi blues singer and guitarist Lisa Mills is in the raw but soulful tradition of stars like Janis Joplin. Support comes from Black Country guitarist Pete Boddis.
Visit therobin.co.uk

Romesh Ranganathan



Sunday & Wednesday, 8pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The grumpy former maths teacher will focus on what bugs him when he brings his Irrational tour to the Midlands. The tour visits Wolverhampton and Telford next month.
Visit tsh.co.uk

Richard O'Brien's Rocky Horror Show



Monday to Saturday, various
New Alexandra Theatre, B'ham
The saucy and lurid comedy rock musical about sex maniac aliens that became a phenomenon returns to do the Time Warp again with Steve Punt as the narrator.
Visit www.atgtickets.com/birmingham

Petula Clark



Monday, 7.30pm
Town Hall, Birmingham
The singer found fame as a child star during the Second World War and has enjoyed continued success in the UK, France and the USA, still recording after seven decades.
Visit tsh.co.uk

CLUBBING

Propaganda
Tonight,
O2 Academy Birmingham,
B1 1DB. Call 0121 622 8250

Leftfoot & Shadow City
Present MCDE & Move D
at The Rainbow Venues
Tonight,
The Rainbow Venues, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Upravr
Tomorrow, free entry
The Asylum, Birmingham,
B19 3LS. Call 0121 233 1109

Garage Gathering
Tomorrow,
Civic Hall, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1RD.
Call 0870 320 7000

25 Years of DJ MAG - Jamie Jones & The Martinez Brothers
at The Rainbow Venues
Tomorrow,
Cellar Door, The Rainbow
Venues, Digbeth, Birmingham,
B12 0LD.
Call 0121 753 1818

Red Card Student Night
Wed,
Walkabout Inn Birmingham,
B1 2DS. Call 0121 632 5712

JAZZ, BLUES, SOUL REGGAE & MOTOWN

Detroit Soul
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU. Call 0121 200 3030

The Ruts DC
Tonight,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Blues Run The Game
Mon, £2 - £5
Tower Of Song, Birmingham,
B30 3EL.
Call 0121 486 1300

Jazz Tuesdays
Tue,
Spotted Dog, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B12 0NH.
Call 0121 772 3822

Lisa Mills
Wed, £12.50 - £14.50
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

ROCK & METAL

Fred Zeppelin (Led Zeppelin tribute)
Tonight, £8
The River Rooms, Stourbridge,
DY8 1JN. Call 01384 397 177
or 07986 577 661

Food Fighterz
Tonight, £6 - £7
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Joe Brown Solo Show - Just Joe. Plus Special Guest Henry Gross
Tonight,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

ELO Again - A Night of ELO
Tomorrow, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.
Call 20-22 01902 401211

The Wedding Present
Tomorrow,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

The Top Ten Beatles
Tomorrow, £15
Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate
Shopping Centre, Worcester,
WR1 3LD. Call 01905 611427

Aussie Wrecking Crew Tour 2016
Sun,
The Slade Rooms,
Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP.
Call 01902 552122

Talon (Eagles tribute)
Sun, £17.50 - £19.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Goo Goo Dolls
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

Slam Cartel
Thu, £5
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Sunshine Underground + Broken Flages
Thu, £14
The Sugarmill, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1DR. Call 01782 214991

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Acoustic, Up Close & Personal with Toyah
Tonight, £20
The Ironbridge Gorge Museums,
Coalbrookdale, TF8 7DQ.
Call 01952 433 424

The Lindisfarne Story
Tonight, £19.50
Theatre Severn, Shrewsbury, SY3 8FT.
Call 01743 281281

Sing Political!
Wed,
The Prince of Wales Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8EE.
Call 0121 4494198

CLASSICAL

Sacconi Quartet with Robert Plane: Bromsgrove Concerts
Tonight, £19
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jean-Michel Jarre
Tomorrow,
Barclaycard Arena,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B1 2AA.
Call 0121 780 4141

Organ Proms
Tomorrow,
Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
Call 0844 871 7649

Gospel Central
Wed,
The Jam House, Birmingham,
B3 1QU.
Call 0121 200 3030

POP

Petula Clark From Now On Tour
Mon,
Town Hall Birmingham, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Level 42 - Sirens II Tour 2016
Tue, £28
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
B1 2EA.
Call 0121 780 3333

Lloyd Cole
Wed,
Glee Club Birmingham, B5 4TD.
Call 0871 472 0400

RAP & RNB

Akala - 10 Years of Akala Tour
Thu,
The Institute, Digbeth,
Birmingham, B5 6DY.
Call 0121 643 0428

FESTIVALS

The Quinphonic Festival 3
Sun, £15
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

COMEDY

Martin Huburn Tiptonite - Live Lounge Comedy Special
Tomorrow, Free entry
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

The Impney Comedy Night: Roy Walker
Tonight,
Chateau Impney Hotel &
Exhibition Centre, Droitwich Spa,
WR9 0BN.
Call 01905 77 44 11

Queer'Say
Tonight, £5 - £6
Artrix,
Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Jimmy Carr - The Best of, Ultimate, Gold, Greatest Hits Tour
Tomorrow,
Dudley Town Hall, DY1 1HP.
Call 01384 815577

Kerry Godliman - Stick or Twist
Tomorrow,
Artrix, Bromsgrove, B60 1PQ.
Call 01527 577330

Romesh Ranganathan: Irrational
Tomorrow,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
Call 01684 892277
and
Sun and Wed,
Birmingham Town Hall, B3 3DQ.
Call 0121 780 3333

Al Murray - Lets Go Backwards Together
Sun,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

BBC Radio 4's Mitch Benn at the Cheeky Monkey comedy club, Moseley, Birmingham
Tue,
The Dark Horse Moseley,
Birmingham, B13 8JP.
Call 0121 449 6300

Board Game Smackdown - as part of the Birmingham Comedy Festival 2016
Wed,
The RoadHouse Birmingham,
Kings Norton, B30 3DZ.
Call 0121 246 2273

Cloaks
Wed, £8 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton,
WV1 1SE.
Call 01902 321321

Patrick Monahan: That 80's Show
The Old Joint Stock Pub
& Theatre, Birmingham, B2 5NY.
Call 0121 200 1892

Rich Hall
Thu, £17
Oakengates Theatre, Telford,
TF2 6EP.
Call 01952 382382

THEATRE

946: The Amazing Story Of Adolphus Tips
Tonight - Thu, £10 - £15
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

Strictly Musicals
Tonight - tomorrow,
Regent Theatre, Stoke-on-Trent,
ST1 1AP.
Call 0844 871 7649

Roxy Magic
Tonight - tomorrow, £12 - £14
Theatre on the Steps, Bridgnorth,
WV16 4BD.
Call 01746 766477

Romeo and Juliet
Tonight - tomorrow,
Hall Green Little Theatre,
Birmingham, B27 7RY.
Call 0121 707 1874

The Duchess of Malfi
Tonight - tomorrow,
The Crescent Theatre,
Brindleyplace, Birmingham,
B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

The Tempest
Tonight - tomorrow,
Birmingham Hippodrome, B5 4TB.
Call 0844 338 5000

Beyond the Water's Edge
Sun,
Birmingham Repertory Theatre,
B1 2EP.
Call 0121 236 4455

9 To 5 - The Musical
Tue - Thu,
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,
WV1 1DE. Call 01902 42 92 12

Carmen - Russian State Opera
Sun,
Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,
ST16 2LT. Call 01785 254653

Jane McDonald
Sun,
New Alexandra Theatre,
Birmingham, B5 4DS.
Call 0844 871 3011

The Rocky Horror Show
Mon - Thu,
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Bardolph's Box
Tue,
Malvern Theatres, WR14 3HB.
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Whitney - Queen of the Night
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Victoria Hall, Hanley,
Stoke-on-Trent, ST1 3AD.
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All & Sundry present Of Mice And Men
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Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

New play from War Horse author



A dazzling jitterbug scene from 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, which is based on a real wartime incident

A STORY about a hushed-up D-Day training disaster, created by the writer of War Horse, will be staged at Birmingham Rep from tonight (Thursday) until October 15.

The play, 946: The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips, has been adapted by Michael Morpurgo and Emma Rice from Morpurgo's own book of the same name.

The production enjoyed acclaimed reviews during a season at London's The Globe and is now on the road for its first UK tour. It tells the little-known story of an ill-fated rehearsal of the D-Day landings, when 946 people were killed during Operation Tiger at Slapton Sands in Devon in 1944.

In the lead role of youngster Lily Tregenza is Katy Owen, who appeared in Kneehigh's Rebecca at Birmingham Rep last year and recently as Puck in the Globe's production of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Lily Tregenza, her family and her cat Tips are trying to live a normal village life in the midst of the Second World War.

Rescue

After being inundated with evacuees from London, village life is halted as American GIs arrive to prepare for the D-Day landings. Lily and her family are moved away from Slapton but Tips gets left behind. Lily sets out to rescue her cat accompanied by townie

friend Barry and a black American GI Adolphus 'Adi' T Madison.

It feels like it couldn't get any worse for Lily and her family, but then the Germans ambush the training fleet with disastrous results for the Allied troops.

Morpurgo said: "There is no theatre company that tells stories more imaginatively, more unexpectedly, than Kneehigh. 946 is based on historical events that took place in and around Slapton as the Americans trained for the landings in France."

"I have witnessed first-hand the way Kneehigh weaves a tale and makes it live on stage for us. For my story to play a part in this is simply a joy."



Blood and tears show

LEGENDARY Liverpool musical drama Blood Brothers is returning to Birmingham Hippodrome for a fortnight's run with Lyn Paul in the iconic role of Mrs Johnstone, the mother of ill-fated twins in this much-loved tearjerker.

Written by Willy Russell, Bill Kenwright's production surpassed 10,000 performances in London's West End over 24 years, one of only three musicals ever to achieve that milestone.

The show tells the story of twin boys separated at birth, only to be reunited by a twist of fate and a mother's secret.

The memorable score includes A Bright New Day, Marilyn Monroe and the emotionally charged hit Tell Me It's Not True.

Lyn Paul, who found fame in the 1970s as a member of chart-topping pop group the New Seekers, returns to the role she played many times in the West End, right up to the show's final performances at the Phoenix Theatre four years ago.

She also featured in Bill Kenwright's tour of Cabaret as Fräulein Schneider with Will Young, which came to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre in 2013.

Blood Brothers is at the Hippodrome from Monday to October 22.

Arena spectacular from synth master

A SPECTACLE for the eyes and an audio treat for the ears is anticipated when French electronic music pioneer Jean-Michel Jarre showcases his Electronica albums at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday.

Since his first concert in 1979 celebrating Bastille Day, Jarre's concert history has been unprecedented. He has set and broken World records including one for an audience of 2.5 million at the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and for 3.5 million in Moscow. Expect a burst of Oxygen to too.

Meanwhile, German synth trailblazers Kraftwerk have announced a concert at Birmingham Symphony Hall for June 13.

Punk veterans and indie rock favourites

IF you're in a rut and you want to get out of it - check out punk-reggae veterans Ruts DC at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tomorrow night (Friday). The Ruts were one of the fiercest political punk bands on the front line of protests in the 1970s, reinventing themselves as Ruts DC after the death of frontman Malcolm Owen in 1980. Featuring original bass player John 'Segs' Jennings and drummer Dave Ruffy - guitarist Paul Fox died in 2007 - the band has upped the reggae content.

Top 1980s indie outfit The Wedding Present, fronted by David Gedge, play the Slade Rooms on Saturday.

Weller's band in Hare & Hounds gig

KEY gigs in Brum include former Husker Du frontman Bob Mould in support of his Patch The Sky album at the O2 Academy tomorrow night (Friday).

On Saturday Kate Jackson, ex-Long Blondes, performs songs from solo debut British Road Movies with new band The Wrong Moves at The Rainbow's Mama Roux venue in Digbeth.

Ocean Colour Scene's Steve Cradock and other members of Paul Weller's band play as The Songbook Collective at the Hare & Hounds in Kings Heath on Sunday. Following the release of single Lose Control, Leeds outfit Pigeon Detectives play The Sunflower Lounge on Wednesday.

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CHOICE



Boy George

Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia (BBC2, 9.30pm)

The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George revisits his teenage years. While history may remember the 1970s as being marked by strikes, poverty and civil discord, the singer reveals that – for the young George O'Dowd – the decade was the beginning of his musical, social and sexual coming-of-age. He discusses how sexual repression and disenfranchisement, along with the advent of glam rock, disco and punk, gave rise to the flamboyant persona he would later unleash on the world, via Culture Club's memorable first appearance on Top of the Pops in 1982.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.00** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) **3.20 Film:** Shrek the Third. (2007) The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel, with the voices of Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz. **4.45** Can't Touch This. **5.35** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities.

6.45 Strictly Come Dancing. Strictly is nothing if not glamorous, but there are a few extra sparkles this week as the contestants take their inspiration from the silver screen in a movie-themed show, with Len Goodman, Bruno Tonioli, Craig Revel Horwood and Darcey Bussell deciding who is a blockbuster and who is a box-office flop. As ever, Tess Daly introduces the twinkle-toed stars, while Claudia Winkelman chats to them after their performances – and watch out too for the professionals, who will no doubt be kicking off the show off with a spirited effort.

8.50 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion. A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, plus a performance by the Shires.

9.40 Casualty. Robyn's plans are thwarted when her ailing sweetheart Glen's health takes a turn for the worse. Meanwhile, Dylan's clinical skills are put to the test.

10.30 BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.

10.50 Film: Iron Man 3. (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr.

12.50 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.55** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Film: They Flew Alone. (1942) **8.10 Film:** Evening. (2007) **10.00** Miniature Britain. (R) **11.00** Lost Land of the Jaguar. (R) **12.00** Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Nature's Wildest Events. (R) **3.00** Flog It! **4.00** The Hairy Bikers' Chicken and Egg. (R) **5.00** Gardeners' World. (R)

6.00 Inside the Commons. Behind the scenes at the State Opening of Parliament, and a look at how Labour and Conservative MPs conspire together to thwart their party whips. (R)

7.00 The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice. Jo Brand presents a companion show to BBC One's baking contest, featuring unseen footage from the programme and an interview with the week's eliminated baker. (R)

7.30 Dad's Army. Mainwaring's men pose as traitors to see how the residents of Walmington-on-Sea would deal with genuine Nazi infiltrators in their midst. (R)

8.00 A Very British Murder with Lucy Worsley. New series. The historian examines Britain's enduring fascination with murder, beginning by exploring how stories of notorious killings entertained the public.

9.00 Artsnight: Michael Palin Meets Jan Morris. Michael Palin talks to Jan Morris, who has spent most of her 90 years writing about far-off places, after shooting to fame as part of the team that conquered Everest in 1953.

9.30 Boy George's 1970s: Save Me from Suburbia. The BBC's My Generation season continues as Boy George explains how the social discord and sexual politics of the 1970s informed the development of his pop persona.

10.35 Film: Cabaret. (1972) A flighty nightclub singer in 1930s Berlin is drawn into a love triangle with a sensitive would-be English writer and an aristocratic German, as the Nazi party grows in might and the country heads inexorably toward war. Oscar-winning musical directed and photographed by Bob Fosse, starring Liza Minnelli, Joel Grey, Michael York and Helmut Griem.

12.30 Film: Marjorie. (1964) **2.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Outbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Be Cool, Scooby-Do! **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Tipping Point. (R) **1.30** The Chase. (R) **2.30** The X Factor. (R) **4.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **4.15** ITV News; Weather. **4.30** World Cup Qualifier Live. England v Malta (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.15** ITV News; Weather. **7.30** You've Been Framed! Gold. (R) **8.00 The X Factor.** Thousands of aspiring pop stars turned up at the auditions, 120 battled it out at boot camp and, after the drama of the six-chair challenge, the best of those made it through to the judges' houses. Now the competition really begins as the final 12 perform live for the judges and millions of viewers at home. Each of them will be hoping they have what it takes to make an impression and stay on the show right up to the final just before Christmas. Simon Cowell is mentoring the girls' category. Nicole Walsh has the groups, Nicole Scherzinger looks after the boys, while Sharon Osbourne has the over-25s. Hosted by Dermot O'Leary.

10.00 Newsoids. Satirical sketch show blending traditional puppetry and animation, with impressionists Jon Culshaw, Debra Stephenson, Lewis Macleod and Simon Greenall. Last in the series.

10.30 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host is joined by Strictly Come Dancing judge Darcey Bussell, comedians Jack Whitehall and Alan Carr, and Whiplash star Miles Teller.

11.30 World Cup Qualifier Highlights. Jacqui Oatley introduces action from England's Malta at Wembley Stadium, as Gareth Southgate continued his short stint in charge of the Three Lions.

12.50 Jackpot247. **3.00** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Gillette World Sport. **6.35** Motor Sport: GT Academy. **7.05** Triathlon: Vittoria-Gasteiz. **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** The Morning Line. **10.00** The Simpsons. (R) **10.30** The Simpsons. (R) **11.00** The Simpsons. (R) **11.30** Sarah Beeny's Four Rooms. **12.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.00** Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Newmarket and York. **4.30** A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. **5.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R)

6.30 Channel 4 News.

7.00 Grand Designs. Kevin McCloud meets Tom and Danielle Raffield, whose lifelong passion has been steam-bending wood. They've used the technique to create extraordinary furniture and lighting, but now plan to use it on a larger scale. In an attempt to escape the confines of their tiny gamekeeper's lodge, they have decided to build a wavy wooden house in South Cornwall, completed with curved cladding, twisted furniture and interior walls covered with weathered timber. With a £100,000 budget, the pair have decided to do a lot of the building themselves, and Kevin is on hand to discover whether they're up to the challenge. (R)

8.00 Walking Through Time. Palaeobiologist Dr Tori Herridge explores the Jurassic Coast of Devon and Dorset, walking from the 150-million-year-old cliffs of Kimmeridge at its eastern end, back through time to the even older red cliffs of Budleigh Salterton, to reveal why the coast is packed with world-class fossils. Along the way she encounters the biggest sea predator ever to have lived and a global disaster that nearly destroyed life on our planet. Last in the series.

9.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts as Jessica Hynes and guest captain David Williams take on Jon Richardson and Rhod Gilbert.

10.00 Film: The Inbetweeners 2. (2014) The awkward teenagers find university does not live up to their expectations, and go to Australia in search of adventure. Comedy sequel, starring Simon Bird.

12.00 Film: Good Morning, Vietnam. (1987) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **9.55** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **11.00** FIA Formula E: Season Preview. **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.55** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **2.55** Nightmare Tenants. Slum Landlords. (R) **3.55** 5 News Weekend. **4.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R) **5.00** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

6.00 The NCIS Movie: Enemies Exposed. Ziva confronts her past when the team is ordered to protect her father, Mossad director Eli David, at a gathering of former heads of NCIS. The agents discover he is being targeted by terrorists who have hijacked a shipment of advanced weapons from the army. Feature-length episode of the drama, guest starring TJ Ramin and Michael Nouri, with Cote de Pablo and Michael Weatherly. (R)

7.45 NCIS: New Orleans. Mardi Gras arrives in New Orleans, and Pride plans to mark the occasion by opening his bar to the public. However, festivities are put on immediate hold for the team when a US Marine is murdered at the hotel where Mayor Hamilton is holding his own party. As the agents head to the venue to investigate, they realise both Hamilton and Pride have disappeared. What follows is a race to locate the pair before they fall victim to their unknown kidnapper's brutal plans.

8.40 NCIS: New Orleans. The team searches for a soldier believed to be a prisoner of war in Afghanistan, when his prints are found in a crime scene.

9.35 Gotham. Gordon and Bullock track down a vigilante balloon seller responsible for the death of a corrupt businessman, and Oswald Cobblepot returns to Gotham. (R)

10.25 Football on 5: Goal Rush. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce all the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two.

11.30 Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV is helping to bring criminals using weapons to justice. (R)

11.55 Access.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **4.50** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 Lost Kingdoms of South America **8.00** Scotland's Vital Spark: The Clyde Puffer **9.00** Beck: The Last Day **10.30** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **11.30** Totally British: 70s Rock 'n' Roll **1.30** Top of the Pops: 1982 **2.05** It's Only Rock 'n' Roll: Rock 'n' Roll at the BBC **3.05** The Good Old Days **3.50** Close

ITV2

12.30 The Xtra Factor Live **1.30** Funnies Ever You've Been Framed! Gold **2.15** Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003) **4.00** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **5.00** FYI Daily **5.05** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **5.50** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **6.50** FYI Daily **6.55** Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor (2008) **7.55** Film: The Mask (1994) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** Film: The Mask (1994) **10.00** The Xtra Factor Live **10.30** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Family Guy **12.45** American Dad! **1.15** Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.15** FYI Daily **2.20** Film: American Pie Presents Band Camp (2005) **2.45** Teleshopping

ITV3

11.20 Film: Carry On Again Doctor (1969) **12.05** Film: Columbo: Short Fuse (1972) **1.40** Inspector Morse **4.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Midsomer Murders **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** You're Only Young Twice **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

ITV4

2.35 British Superbike Championship Highlights **3.35** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **5.10** Film: Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1989) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** Film: Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (1989) **7.00** Pierce **8.00** Storage Wars **9.00** Film: Cliffhanger (1993) **10.10** FYI Daily **10.15** Film: Cliffhanger (1993) **11.15** Film: Public Enemies (2009) **12.25** FYI Daily **2.20** Film: Public Enemies (2009) **2.00** Hell on Wheels **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen

E4

11.05 How I Met Your Mother **12.05** Baby Daddy **1.00** The Goldbergs **4.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Contraband (2012) **11.10** Gogglebox **1.15** Rude Tube **3.15** Gogglebox **4.05** Rude(ish) Tube **4.25** Revenge

Film4

1.00 Film: A Wimpy Kid: Dog Days (2012) **2.50** The Train (1964) **5.25** Vice Versa (1988) **7.20** Vehicle 19 (2013) **9.00** Pitch Perfect (2012) **11.10** The Final Destination (2009) **12.45** Lesson of Evil (2012) **3.25** Close

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Wild West: America's Great Frontier (BBC2, 8pm)
New series. Documentary exploring the history and geography of America's deserts, canyons and wilderness, exploring the lives of the people and animals that have found ways to thrive and prosper in these brutally inhospitable conditions. The first programme examines the agricultural traditions of the Hopi Native American tribe in northeastern Arizona, as well as exploring the strategies used by a variety of wildlife, including mustangs, coyotes and desert tortoises, to survive in these demanding environments.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Points of View. **3.00** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.00** Lifetime. **4.10** Songs of Praise. **4.50** Animal Babies. **5.50** BBC News. **6.05** Regional Programme. **6.15** **Countryside.** A look at how rivers and waterways have shaped our landscape. Matt Baker meets a writer inspired by the Thames Estuary and an artist whose work is made from floss brought in on the tide. Naomi Wilkinson takes a trip down Britain's oldest shipping canal. Adam Henson visits one of the country's last traditional country fairs. Sean Fletcher discovers how a landfill site is being turned into a nature reserve, and Tom Heap explores the science surrounding Bovine TB. **7.15** **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkelman host the results show, as the judges choose between the two couples with the lowest scores. Michael Ball and Alfie Boe provide the music. **8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Broughton Castle in Oxfordshire, where items brought in for valuation include two 18th-century paintings depicting the house's servants. **9.00** **Poldark.** Ross searches for Mark Daniel in the hope of finding copper and makes a deal with Trenconr – but it may be too late when George calls in his debts, leaving him faced with prison. **10.00** **BBC News.** **10.20** **Regional Programme.** **10.30** **Room 101 – Extra Storage.** Frank Skinner welcomes German comedian Henning Wehn. West End star Michael Ball and actress-presenter Caroline Quentin to discuss their pet hates. (R) **11.10** **Film: War of the Worlds.** (2005) A divorced father tries to protect his two children as alien war machines start to wipe out the human race. Steven Spielberg's sci-fi thriller, with Tom Cruise. **12.55** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

7.15 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.00** Countryside. (R) **10.00** The Beechgrove Garden. **10.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **12.00** Food & Drink. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Natural World: Madagascar, Lemurs and Spies. (R) **3.00** Heir Hunters. (R) **4.00** Flog It! **5.00** Rugby League. **6.00** **Modern Times: 24 Hour Parcel People.** On Christmas Eve 2014, next-day courier company City Link went into administration with the loss of thousands of jobs. This documentary was filmed in the summer of 2014 and tells the story of how the company tried to survive in the high-stakes world of overnight deliveries, uncovering the hidden world of the people who pack, process and deliver everything from trees to wine in orders placed with the UK's top 150 retailers. (R) **7.00** **Ireland with Simon Reeve.** Part two of two. Simon visits Belfast for the July 12 parades, as well as exploring the Giant's Causeway, learning more about Oliver Cromwell, and attending the Gaze film festival. (R) **8.00** **Wild West: America's Great Frontier.** New series. Documentary exploring the history, geography, wildlife and people of America's deserts, including the agricultural traditions of the Hopi tribe in Arizona. **9.00** **Sir Chris Hoy: 200mph at Le Mans.** Documentary following the Olympic cyclist as he retrains as a racing driver to pursue a lifelong dream of competing in the world's toughest endurance race, the Le Mans 24 Hours. **10.00** **Film: Begin Again.** (2013) Premiere. A disgraced record executive begins a life-changing collaboration with a singer he meets in New York's East Village. Comedy drama, with Keira Knightley and Mark Ruffalo. **11.40** **Film: Wonder Boys.** (2000) A washed-up professor is given the inspiration to finish his latest novel by a student who shows him a new perspective on life. Drama, starring Michael Douglas. **1.25** Sign Zone: Countryside. (R) **2.20** Holy City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two. **5.45** The Face of Britain by Simon Schama. (R)

ITV

6.00 CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.15** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.25** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Sooty. (R) **7.00** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Oddbods. (R) **7.25** Scrambled!: Scrambled! **7.30** Scrambled!: Nerds & Monsters. (R) **7.50** Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. (R) **8.10** Scrambled!: Looped. **8.30** Scrambled!: Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **9.05** Scrambled!: Adventure Time. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Bear Grylls Survival School. **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Best Walks with a View with Julia Bradbury. (R) **11.30** Chopping Block. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.40** The X Factor. (R) **2.40** Midsomer Murders. (R) **4.40** Victoria. (R) **5.40** Doc Martin. (R) **6.35** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.45** **ITV News;** Weather. **7.00** **The Chase: Celebrity Special.** Nigel Havers, Melinda Messenger, Michelle Hardwick and Dave Gorman work as a team to take on quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize for charity. Presented by Bradley Walsh. **8.00** **The X Factor.** Dermot O'Leary presents the results of the first live show, before a sing-off is held to determine which of the lowest scoring acts will be the first elimination of the year. **9.00** **Victoria.** The queen is heavily pregnant, but defies her mother and husband when they try to keep her confined to the palace – while the Duke of Cumberland sees political advantage to be gained should Victoria die in childbirth. During a public appearance by Victoria and Albert, a man in the crowd tries to assassinate her, setting in motion a number of conspiracy theories. Skerrett receives an offer from Francatelli to join him in his new establishment. Last in the series. **10.05** **ITV News;** Weather. **10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** (R) **11.20** **Premiership Rugby Union.** Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present highlights of the latest top-flight fixtures, including Bath v Sale Sharks, Harlequins v Northampton Saints and Saracens v Wasps. **12.10** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.10** ITV NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.45 Triathlon: Stoke on Trent European City of Sport Triathlon 2016. **7.40** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Find It, Fix It, Flog It. **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. (R) **1.30** Formula 1 Japanese Grand Prix Highlights. **3.30** The Simpsons. (R) **4.00** The Simpsons. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Posh Pawn.** James gets an enquiry about a passenger jet simulator, which the bwestrent wants £150,000 for, and shows some unexpected kindness when a client is in danger of losing his collection of silver. A pilates instructor hopes her collection of designer handbags will be valuable enough to fund a dream holiday, and a diamond and sapphire necklace is pawned to fund a skincare business. **8.00** **Speed Special: Guy's World Record Attempt.** Guy Martin attempts to break the motorcycle land speed record, which currently stands at 376mph. He travels to Bonneville Salt Flats in Nevada, where he must learn to ride a unique jet-propelled bike which has two engines and requires a completely different driving technique to any vehicle he has previously encountered. **9.00** **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls.** The recent outbreak of fighting on the island seems to have come to an end, and the castaways hope to make peace and enjoy a relaxed day off from their responsibilities. However, the peace does not last and hunger is soon taking an even greater toll than ever on the party. Karen Danczuk takes charge of the crisis and proposes a drastic solution – she intends to lead a small hunting party to an expedition to catch and kill a crocodile, providing the starving celebrities with an unusual source of meat. Last in the series. **10.00** **Gogglebox.** Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R) **11.05** **Film: Predators.** (2010) Sci-fi thriller sequel, starring Adrien Brody and Topher Grace. **1.05** Travel Man: 48 Hours in Barcelona. (R) **1.35** Trump vs Clinton Live: US Presidential Debate. **3.45** Kirstie's Fill Your House for Free. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey. **6.05** Milkshake! Box Box. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.25** Bob the Builder. (R) **6.40** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **6.50** Zack and Quack. (R) **7.00** Pats. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Pip Ahoy! (R) **7.30** FIA Formula E Live: Hong Kong. **9.30** Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R) **10.30** The Gadget Show Greatest Gadgets Ever! (R) **11.30** Funniest Fails, Fails & Flops. **11.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **12.55** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.50** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **2.50** **Film: Hercules.** (1997) Disney animated adventure, with the voice of Tate Donovan. **4.35** **Film: Robin Hood.** (1973) Disney animation, with the voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter Ustinov. **6.15** **Now That's Funny!** Featuring clips of the world's most competitive people and footage of unusual animal antics, including a ninja dog. **7.05** **Penn & Teller: Fool Us in Vegas.** A double act bends metal bars and an illusionist makes a coin disappear into thin air. A performer asks Penn to help him out with a mind manipulation trick, while Jonathan Ross is recruited to help a kickboxer with a stunt involving 51 decks of cards and a woodchipper. Penn and Teller wrap up the show by performing an unusual flower-arranging trick. **8.00** **Ice Road Truckers.** Todd is forced to travel a tenuous ice crossing with the heaviest haul in Polar Industries' history, while Art embarks on a high-stakes rescue mission. **8.55** **5 News Weekend.** **9.00** **Film: Parker.** (2013) A thief is betrayed and left for dead by his partners in crime. He learns they are planning a diamond heist in a wealthy neighbourhood, so poses as a millionaire wanting to buy a house in the area. A real-estate agent sees through the disguise and helps him get even by stealing the gems from his traitorous gang. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Jennifer Lopez. Includes 5 News at 10pm. **11.20** **Film: Safe.** (2012) A former cage fighter protects a 12-year-old girl holding valuable information that several criminal factions want. Action thriller, starring Jason Statham and Catherine Chan. **1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Raw Recruits: Squaddies at 16. (R) **4.00** Criminals: Caught on Camera. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 In Their Own Words: 20th Century Composers **8.00** Gypsy: Live from the Savoy Theatre **10.15** Darcey Bussell Dances Hollywood **11.45** Light and Dark **1.45** Impact: A Horizon Guide to Plane Crashes **2.45** Dissected: The Incredible Human Hand **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.00 Coronation Street **1.25** Catchphrase **2.10** You've Been Framed! **2.40** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **3.40** FYI Daily **3.45** **Film:** Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang (2010) **4.50** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **6.50** **Film:** Paranoia (2013) **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** **Film:** Paranoia (2013) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Family Guy **11.55** American Dad! **12.50** The Cleveland Show **1.40** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.10** The Hot Desk: ONCE **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.25 Rosemary & Thyme **2.25** **Film:** Columbo: Suitable for Framing (1971) **4.10** **Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** **Film:** Carry On at Your Convenience (1971) **6.00** Rosemary & Thyme **7.00** Lewis **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** A Touch of Frost **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.55** A Touch of Frost **3.35** May the Best House Win **5.15** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
3.30 FYI Daily **3.35** **Film:** The Hanging Tree (1959) **4.45** **Film:** The Alamo (1960) **5.50** FYI Daily **5.55** **Film:** The Alamo (1960) **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Car Crash Britain **10.05** **Film:** American Gangster (2007) **11.10** FYI Daily **11.15** **Film:** American Gangster (2007) **1.15** Steve McQueen: Motorcycle Movie Star **2.10** The Big Fish Off **E4**
12.30 Come Dine with Me: Made in Chelsea Special **1.30** Made in Chelsea Does Come Dine with Me **2.40** **Film:** Dr. Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.20** Rude (ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** The Goldbergs **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Shallow Hal (2001) **11.15** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **12.20** The Inbetweeners **1.25** Gogglebox **2.25** Body Fixers **3.20** Hollyoaks
Film4
2.35 Evolution (2001) **4.35** St Trinian's 2: The Legend of Fritton's Gold (2009) **6.40** The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (2010) **9.00** Iron Man 2 (2010) **11.25** Arbitrage (2012) **1.35** Hitchcock/Truffaut (2015) **3.20** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY

Layer Cake, Channel 5, 11.05pm
A London cocaine dealer is all set to leave the criminal world behind and start a new life abroad. However, his plans are thwarted when he is asked to track down a gangster's drug-addicted daughter and locate a stolen shipment of Ecstasy. Crime thriller, starring Daniel Craig. (2004)

WEDNESDAY

The Time Traveler's Wife, Channel 4, 1.15am
A librarian suffers from a strange condition that causes him to involuntarily move backwards and forwards in time. He marries a woman who was already in love with him after an encounter in his future and her past, but his journeys through history put a strain on their relationship, especially as he learns more about events that have yet to happen. Romantic sci-fi drama based on Audrey Niffenegger's novel, starring Rachel McAdams. (2009)



Django Unchained, Friday, Channel 5, 10pm

THURSDAY

Delhi-6, Channel 4, 1.40am
Roshan accompanies his ailing grandmother to Delhi when she insists on dying in the land of her birth. He has spent all his life outside India and is initially awed by everything he sees, especially the close-knit community life and the fusion of Hindu-Muslim culture in his grandparents' old neighbourhood. But the deep-rooted animosity between Hindus and Muslims soon resurfaces, and Roshan, whose mother is a Muslim, is taken aback by the violent hatred he faces. Drama, starring Abhishek Bachchan, Waheeda Rehman, Sonam Kapoor, Rishi Kapoor, Om Puri. In Hindu with English subtitles. (2009)

FRIDAY

Django Unchained, Channel 5, 10pm
A slave named Django is tracked down by eccentric German bounty hunter Dr King Schultz, who offers him his freedom in exchange for help bringing three criminals to justice. The unlikely allies continue their partnership after the job is done, and fight to rescue Django's wife from a sadistic plantation owner. Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning Western, starring Jamie Foxx, Christoph Waltz, Leonardo DiCaprio and Samuel L Jackson. (2012)

There's a web of intrigue for Julien in new case

Two years ago, viewers were gripped by The Missing, which starred James Nesbitt as a distraught father desperately searching for his young son who disappeared during a holiday to France.

The series ended on an ambiguous note – some viewers thought the mystery had been solved, others felt there were still some loose threads left dangling. However, the bad news for those in the latter camp is that this new series won't be picking up where the last one left off.

The good news is Tch ky Karyo is reprising his role as French detective Julien Baptiste to tackle a whole new case. And while the first run largely concentrated on parents dealing with the horror of not knowing what had happened to their child, this one takes a different approach.

Writers Harry and Jack Williams say: "While we were writing the first series, we began talking about what the show would have been had Oliver Hughes been found. This story grew out of that discussion.

"It's the other side of the coin to series one – an exploration of loss, of freedom, of how the past can shape the present in myriad ways that we cannot fully understand. It's bigger, more ambitious, and we're delighted to have such a brilliantly talented cast joining Julien Baptiste for a new case."

That cast includes David Morrissey (The Walking Dead, Extant) and Keeley Hawes (Line of Duty, The Casual Vacancy, The Durrells) as Sam and Gemma Webster, whose daughter Alice went missing in Eckhausen, Germany, in 2003.

By late 2014, Sam and Gemma are barely speaking to each other, and Alice's brother Matthew (Jake Davies) has become violent and withdrawn.

But then a young British woman is found stumbling through the streets of Eckhausen, where she subsequently collapses – and is identified as Alice (Abigail Hardingham).

In theory, her return should be a cause for rejoicing, but the news throws her family into turmoil and sends shockwaves through the tight-

knit German community.

As with the original series, we move between the present day and the original investigation. Even knowing that Alice will be found shouldn't make the series less tense, especially as it seems that she may hold vital clues to the whereabouts of a second missing girl, Sophie Giroux, whose 2003 disappearance was investigated by Baptiste. As the detective heads to Iraq, following a lead that he believes is key to finding the girls' abductor, the Webster family has to deal with what happens when the child you've spent years longing to be reunited with actually comes back.

Executive producer Willow Gyrils promises we'll be hooked: "I am so proud to have such a high calibre of cast attached to this project and, with the genius of Harry and Jack Williams' scripts, I know the audience will be gripped to this series just as much as they were to the first. And the beloved Julien Baptiste is back!

"The Missing series two will be just as thrilling, heart-wrenching and character driven as you'd hope it to be."



Tch ky Karyo stars in The Missing, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY

Derren Brown: Miracle Channel 4, 9pm

The award-winning hypnotist, mindreader and master of psychological illusion returns to the stage with a show that explores the world of evangelical faith healing, with Derren selecting people from the audience with a variety of ailments and attempting to rectify their problems using only the power of faith and the laying on of hands. The spectacle was created by Derren and his long-time collaborators Andy Nyman and Andrew O'Connor and was filmed over two nights at the Palace Theatre in London's West End.

TUESDAY

World Cup Qualifier Live ITV, 7.15pm

Commentators Clive Tyldesley and Glenn Hoddle have been brushing up on their Slovenia facts as the side takes on England at 7.45pm. This Group F fixture takes place at Ljubljana's Stozice Stadium, and there will no doubt be some inspiring words from Gareth Southgate as he covers four games after Sam Allardyce's surprise departure last month. The Three Lions are obviously hoping to reach the tournament in Russia, but – pushing the big cat theme to breaking point – let's hope pride doesn't

come before a fall. Slovenia have pulled many surprises out of the bag in the past, so it's anyone's guess who will emerge victorious from this showdown. Mark Pougatch introduces the proceedings.

WEDNESDAY

Aberfan: The Young Wives Club ITV, 9pm

This month marks the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster, in which 116 children and 28 adults lost their lives when a colliery spoil tip collapsed, burying a village school in South Wales. It was a tragedy that shocked Britain and devastated a community, and now the victims' relatives, some of whom are speaking publicly for the first time, talk about that day and how they have tried to rebuild their lives following such an unimaginable loss. In particular, the documentary focuses on the founding of the weekly Aberfan Young Wives club, which provided an outlet for the bereaved mothers' grief. The members reveal that although the bond they formed has helped them through some difficult times,

there is a part of them that will be forever entwined with the day of the disaster.

THURSDAY

Anne Robinson's Britain BBC1, 8pm

It's probably fair to say that Anne Robinson isn't Britain's cuddliest, cosiest TV presenter, but she does have a softer side, which she displays in the second edition of this series. Robinson is a self-confessed dog-lover, which comes in handy as she celebrates the nation's pet owners, some of which are rather on the eccentric side. Among those she discusses the subject with are a socialite who's obsessed with horses, and a homeless person whose main companion is a canine. There's also a chance to meet the woman who



Derren Brown: Miracle, Monday, Channel 4, 9pm

claims her rabbits helped her cope with her divorce, and the seven London cats with more than a millions Facebook followers. However, it's a segment focusing on what pets say about their owners that proves to be the most entertaining moment.

FRIDAY

Jamie's Super Food Channel 4, 8pm

While in South Korea, Jamie Oliver meets one of the oldest people in the world and learns about her diet of nutrient-rich, home grown vegetables. Then, in the mountains of Switzerland, he goes looking for healthy grains. Back at home, the chef reveals how one well-known supermarket super food can be used to create numerous, nutritious and delicious breakfasts with 'avocado 4 ways'. He breaks out some colourful vegetables to enhance chicken fajitas for lunch, and adds barley to a beef and Guinness stew for dinner.

Britain's Greatest Bridges

Channel 5, 9pm

New series. Rob Bell reveals the story behind the construction of the Forth Rail Bridge and how its incredible engineering achievement was born from tragedy and paid for in blood.

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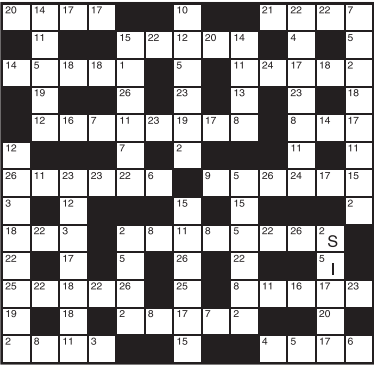
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

N	F	Y	M	O	Z	R	L	V	E	B	G	T
P	W	U	K	J	S	D	A	H	I	X	C	Q

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

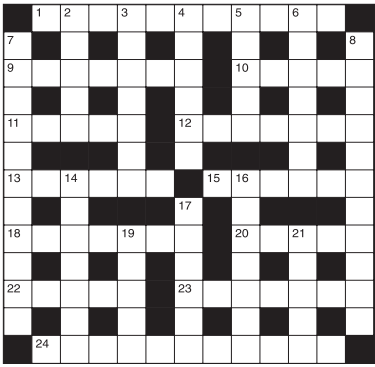
Cryptic Clues:

Across

- 1. Motion in favour of standing (11)
- 9. Lets Rob cook crustacean (7)
- 10. Subsequently further back? (5)
- 11. The best of the literature (5)
- 12. In tones indicating strain (7)
- 13. Where there's fighting on the weather map? (6)
- 15. Somehow, pet ran to father or mother (6)
- 18. Make cuts in the theatre? (7)
- 20. Gratuity has risen like a theatre seat? (3-2)
- 22. Animal from Eastern country (5)
- 23. Residents winning games of chess? (7)
- 24. Supposition of starting again at the pit-head (11)

Down

- 2. Priest cut off animal's tail (5)
- 3. Long suffering person under treatment (7)
- 4. Priest upset mischievous spirit (6)
- 5. More than one mark the writer? (5)
- 6. The team back in the pavilion? (7)
- 7. Blooming senior? (11)
- 8. Lead to gap in mountains to make it happen (5,2,4)
- 14. It's nothing to write a tune out of doors (4,3)
- 16. In great temptation to try (7)
- 17. He's neither too big nor too small for a sitting (6)
- 19. Also two points in the mountains (5)
- 21. In occupation of a paved area (5)



Quick Clues:

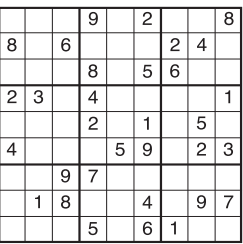
Across

- 1. Unclassifiable (11)
- 9. Built (7)
- 10. Counterfeit (5)
- 11. Sift (5)
- 12. Ingredient (7)
- 13. Niche (6)
- 15. Quantity (6)
- 18. Wind (7)
- 20. Overturn (5)
- 22. Ingenuous (5)
- 23. Briskly (7)
- 24. Affluence (11)

Down

- 2. Fat (5)
- 3. Trembles (7)
- 4. Depress (6)
- 5. Plunder (5)
- 6. Upstart (7)
- 7. Dimension (11)
- 8. Giving back (11)
- 14. Goblet (7)
- 16. Half-drunk (7)
- 17. Rupture (6)
- 19. Live (5)
- 21. Wise men (5)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

1	8	6	4	7	9	3	2	5
2	9	7	5	8	3	1	4	8
5	4	3	1	8	2	6	7	9
8	5	2	3	4	6	7	9	1
7	6	4	2	9	1	8	5	3
9	3	1	7	5	8	2	6	4
6	2	5	8	3	4	9	1	7
4	1	8	9	2	7	5	3	6
3	7	9	6	1	5	4	8	2

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Inactive; 5 Idle; 9 Call; 10 Accursed; 11 Defer; 12 Pursuer; 13 Statelessness; 18 Restrain; 19 Well; 20 Ignoble; 21 Bound; 22 Elch; 23 Attended. Down: 2 Nearest; 3 Collect; 4 Vice-president; 6 Dispute; 7 Endures; 8 Quires; 13 Service; 14 Arsenic; 15 Enrobe; 16 New moon; 17 Silence. QUICK - Across: 1 Admonish; 5 Call; 9 Ache; 10 Ignorant; 11 Minor; 12 Tense; 13 Senselessness; 18 Tangible; 19 Weep; 20 Settled; 21 Petty; 22 Yaps; 23 Detested. Down: 2 Decline; 3 Onerous; 4 Sign the pledge; 6 Avancer; 7 Fitness; 8 Doings; 13 Satisfy; 14 Non-stop; 15 Edible; 16 Newness; 17 Sceptre.

Thinking space

Quiz

- 1. Of which country is Gozo a part?
- 2. What was the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy called?
- 3. What is the forename of Johan Cruyff's ex-Manchester United football-playing son?
- 4. Which type of pilot is named from the Japanese for 'wind of the gods'?
- 5. In which English county is the chalk figure known as the Cerne Abbas Giant?
- 6. Which English composer's middle name was Kemp?
- 7. Which actor/director was born Allen Stewart Konigsberg?
- 8. Of which country is the Irrawaddy the chief river?
- 9. How many pounds are there in a hundredweight?
- 10. Who was the father of Jacob and Esau?

Last week's solutions:

- Quiz: 1 Africa; 2 Brighton; 3 Iris;
- 4 Driving Miss Daisy; 5 George III;
- 6 Leinster; 7 David Copperfield; 8 Titanium;
- 9 Australia; 10 Otter.
- Niner: RESOLVING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

- 3588 gives a British statesman,
- 926451 gives a Greek mathematician,
- 172198 gives a French novelist.



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Catherine's Palace in St Petersburg, with its turquoise, gold and white facade



The iconic Little Mermaid statue in Copenhagen, Denmark



Old City Wall, Tallinn, the medieval capital of Estonia



A magnificent view from Peterhof Palace, St Petersburg

Climb on board to enjoy history, culture, sightseeing and more

By Chris Hutchinson

We had almost decided on a city holiday to Sweden and Denmark when we saw a Fred Olsen cruise which included those two countries, plus the bonus of Baltic Sea countries Estonia, Latvia and Russia – with St Petersburg as the highlight.

The itinerary immediately appealed, and with the help and knowledge from the tour staff, we booked a series of excursions well within our budget.

Leaving from a UK port has many benefits, including extra luggage allowance and speedy embarkation.

After two sunny days' sailing, we entered the Swedish Archipelago, a group of 30,000 islands; our ship Balmoral weaved through a four-hour scenic passage.

Arriving in Stockholm, a panoramic city tour took in the highlights. Strolling around the oldest district, Gamla Stan, you absorb

the heart and antiquity of the city. In Tallinn, a medieval town in Estonia, our walking tour was a great way to soak up sights and sounds of this enchanting place, with narrow cobbled streets, secret courtyards and fairytale towers.

Troubadours and Minstrels entertain, singing and playing traditional songs in authentic dress. Stalls selling hand knitted clothing and amber – known as Baltic gold – are sold at keen prices. Lunch of pork, cooked Estonian style, is a culinary delight.

The next morning, we arrived at St Petersburg, Russia. Two names are synonymous with this extraordinary city, rulers Peter and Catherine the Great, whose influence dominated Imperial Russia and still evident today. We made the most of our first day, with tours of Peterhof Palace and

the Hermitage, which houses more than 2.8 million works of art. Lunch in a typical Russian restaurant started with vodka tasting.

In the evening, we were taken to the Nikolaevsky Palace, featuring a traditional folk show, entertained by musicians, singers and dancers, each routine reflecting different regions of Russia. During the interval, Russian Champagne, vodka, caviar and canapés were served generously. The show ended with a rousing Cossack theme.

Highlights

The city's highlights tour captures the most significant sights of St Petersburg. By now, we were only half way through our cruise.

Riga, regarded as the 'Pearl of Latvia', is characterised by three distinct faces, from 14th century medieval roots, quality Art Nouveau buildings and 19th century

wooden architecture. We visited the Dome Cathedral, while meandering round the quaint old town, you become enthralled in its history. Sailing to Denmark, we had unexpected sight of a pod of dolphins appearing either side of the ship.

Balmoral berthed a short walk from Copenhagen's iconic attraction, the Little Mermaid; despite three serious injuries, she sits serenely on her bed of rocks.

After taking in Copenhagen's highlights, we arrived at the old charming fishing village of Dragor. We strolled the narrow streets of yellow cottages with thatched roofs, gardens ablaze with Hollyhocks, ending with Danish pastry and coffee served at an old inn.

Our final night in Balmoral's theatre featured all the artists and dancers in a spectacular show that left us clamouring for more.

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Dishes start from £10.99 to £34.99

Chicken Skewers

Chicken Wings Skewer - Grilled chicken wings marinated in your choice of sauce (hot - saffron - BBQ)

Dishes start from £7.99 to £8.99

Veggie Skewers

Mushroom Skewer - A skewer of mushrooms marinated in a garlic butter. Served with fresh salad and rice or fresh naan.

Dishes start from £5.99 to £7.99

Lamb Skewers

e.g. Koobideh Skewer - 2 skewers or minced lamb mixed with grated onions, salt, pepper and saffron served with fresh salad and rice or fresh naan.

Dishes start from £7.99 to £11.99

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WITH THIS ADVERT

An immaculate detached property in a popular area

An immaculately presented detached property, 33 Lister Road, Dudley lies in a popular road close to local amenities and schools.

It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £210,000 with no chain.

It accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, spacious reception rooms, a re-fitted kitchen with a utility room, two double bedrooms and a good sized third bedroom and a re-fitted bathroom.

It also has gas central heating, double glazing, off road parking, a garage and an impressive rear garden.

In more detail the entrance porch has a quarry tiled floor.

The entrance hall has stairs off to the first floor landing, an under-stairs pantry and parquet flooring.

The lounge has a bay window to the and a feature fireplace.

The rear reception room has a feature fireplace and French doors opening out to the rear garden.

Recently re-fitted with a range of high gloss wall and base units with working surfaces over, the kitchen has an integrated electric oven, electric hob with extractor over, an integrated microwave, integrated fridge and freezer, integrated dishwasher, spot lights and door opening out to the rear garden.

The outer hallway has a door to the garden and a door to the garage and a sliding door to the utility. This has plumbing for a washing machine with work surfaces over, a pedestal sink and a WC.

Bedroom one has a bay window to the front, bedroom two has a window to the rear and bedroom three has a window to the front.

The re-fitted bathroom has a white suite with a panelled bath, vanity unit with a sink, a separate shower cubicle, heated towel rail and tiled splash backs and there is a separate WC.

Outside is a garage and a good sized private rear garden with a gravelled patio area, large lawn and mature fruit trees.

DUDLEY £210,000



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Characterful detached with original features

MUSHROOM GREEN
£270,000

A characterful detached cottage/bungalow in Mushroom Green, Dudley Wood, The Old Cott has many original features and spacious accommodation.

It is for sale through The Property Shop at offers over £270,000.

This lovely home is idyllically situated in the Hamlet of Mushroom Green which dates back to the 18th Century. It is only a short stroll from Saltwells Nature Reserve, the property has an entrance hall, lounge with original working cast iron range, kitchen, conservatory/dining room, master bedroom with en suite, second bedroom, outhouse utility, garden WC, workshop, detached garage and beautiful gardens.

Call The Property Shop on 01384 456022 or visit www.thepropertyshop.co.uk



Spacious three/ four bedroom bungalow in secluded area

DUDLEY
£235,000

<<<

This spacious detached three/four-bedroomed bungalow in a secluded location in Junction Street, Dudley has plenty to offer its next owner.

Not only does it have its own private drive and further large driveway, it comes with a workshop and various outbuildings.

It is for sale through Trinity Property at £235,000.

It has an entrance lobby, a spacious internal hallway, a lounge with a floor to ceiling bay to the front and double glazed doors leading to the rear dining room. There is also a large fitted breakfast kitchen with a dining area and access to the rear garden, three good sized bedrooms and a house bathroom with low level flush WC and a bath with mixer shower over.

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Unusual replica, it's brick-built!

Caterham has revealed its newest model, but it's not quite how you'd imagine.

Far from being a high-powered sports car crafted from steel and aluminium, this 620R is created from something slightly different – LEGO.

It is the first time that a Caterham has been made from the iconic plastic bricks, with this model standing 10cm tall and 28cm long.

All-in-all, it is made up of 770 pieces, making it a challenge for even the most experienced modeller.

The kit even includes a replica Caterham engine and gear stick.

There's also a removable nose cone and engine cover, as well as functioning axle standard and a working steering wheel.

The car was originally submitted to the LEGO Ideas platform, where it gained 10,000 votes. The LEGO Ideas Review team then chose the 620R to go into full production.

David Ridley, Caterham chief commercial officer, said: "Caterham has always prided itself on producing bespoke, hand-built cars for its customers.

"Our army of fans who build their own Caterham Sevens are equally discerning when it comes to the detail and craftsmanship which is central to Caterham, and we worked closely with the LEGO team to ensure the model replicated that.

"The LEGO 620R has various unique features – the intricately-designed engine was certainly a surprise when we lifted the bonnet for the first time. It's really satisfying to know that fans can recreate and build their own 620R with LEGO bricks."

Priced at £69, the Caterham LEGO 620R will be available to buy now.



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JOY attractive Asian female 37, loves to dance, looking for older English gent to teach me some new steps, fall in love with, spoil, pamper and make feel very special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424255

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419573

WENDY 44yrs, dark haired beauty with blue eyes and a fab figure. WLTm gent any age, give me a call and I promise to call you back, or text/email. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424339

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

RENATA, 55, slim, attractive lady with long auburn hair just wants to have a good time with likeminded older guy up to 75yrs. Looks/status: unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424263

KERRY, 35yrs, married in open relationship, attractive, tall, slim and very presentable. Seeks discreet gent any age for casual pleasurable encounters. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 422363

LOUISE, 40, elegant genuine blonde who's been hurt in the past seeks tall handsome male to be her Mr Right. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424261

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

MELANIE, 49yrs, varied interests, attractive, sensual lady seeks gent any age or status call, see what happens. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424337

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

CALLING all Gentlemen! I'm Janet a mature solvent stylish lady, I'm waiting for you to call me so we can wine/dine and have some good times ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424335

SUSIE, 36yrs, attractive, tall slim blonde seeks fifty shades of grey with discreet gent, must have a fun side looks unimportant. Tel: 0906 515 3039 Box 424045

BABS, single mum looking for adult companionship, any age/looks or status. Interested? Come on over to my place. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424253

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3024 Box 423035

HI Gents, I'm Kelly, a down to earth lady, 35yrs, shapely brunette, seeking someone with GSOH, looks unimportant, any age. ACA, I promise! Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 423035

JESSIE, sophisticated, well educated brunette lady, 38yrs, WLTm man of any age for discreet chats, meetings and more. Age/looks unimportant must have SOH. ACA 4107857

HELLO Gents, I'm a mature attractive interesting lady, with gorgeous eyes. I'm smart, sophisticated, love theatre and films. Give me a call or text me. Looks unimportant, must be kind. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424331

CAROLINE, bored housewife 42, seeking a little excitement. Are you 30+ and discreet, if so ping me a text and give me a few details. Box: 4078682

SICK of being stuck on the shelf, Jenny, 45, attractive female seeks N/S caring male 42-55 who feels the same to share adult companionship, meals in/out, possibly LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424225

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 57, widow, likes dining out, country pubs, good conversation and laughter, seeks genuine professional gent, with a gosh with similar interests, to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424157

SENSUAL tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, wingtiding. WLTm genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424231

HI I'm Pam, 42, slim, blonde, green eyes, discreet, loves cuddles, seeking similar discreet tactile male for mutual friendship with benefits. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424101

LOUISE, 39, tactile good looking solvent female WLTm spontaneous male for holidays, spoiling and lots of fun times. Age/looks/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424055

NAOMI, 43, attractive fun loving female, with lots of love to offer a genuine caring guy. Come on lets share all the good things life has to offer together! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424085

CLARA, 32yr Irish lass working away from home and friends, lonely and looking for older male companionship with no ties or complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424021

FEMALE 50, seeks male of similar age for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350529

AMY 31yr old single mum, new to the area, looking to meet male companion to help make me settle in and feel special again, age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424051

TALL, slim and curvy woman, 57, attractive with GSOH and varied interests, seeks similar man 50-65 Bristol area, for discreet assignments. Text only Mailbox: 5546538

DIANE, loving and caring, young 72 year old, blond hair, brown eyes, smoker, looking for genuine male with gosh, for friendship. Walsall area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424025

ELLA, 46, slim confident brunette, tired of spending lonely nights alone, seeking honest, romantic male to enjoy nights out, hopefully leading to more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424015

JANE, attractive blonde lady, genuine, sincere, likes theatre, meals out, looking to meet nice looking professional single man. Text only Mailbox: 5535192

JULIE, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLTm male for fun times, good conversations, spoiling and maybe more. status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423903

RUTH, 41, single mum fed up with child play, looking for adult relationship with attractive loving guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423629

JACKIE, 49, dark hair, green eyes, cuddly build, likes going out, gym, reading, looking for an honest gentleman for friendship/possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422257

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LYN, 39yrs, dark hair and blue eyes, WLTm action man of any age for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423890

JENNY, looking for a man, 45-55, for adult fun, must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423827

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

LINDA, blonde green eyed lady with nice figure, likes gym, meals out, music, looking for male to enjoy fun times, status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423879

SUSAN divorced female 44, OHAC, no ties, loves to keep fit and look good. WLTm mature guy to fall in love with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423849

DORRIE, 39, sporty, fun, hardworking professional, seeks similar male to help live up weekends and make her laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423883

BOURNIE, 42yr old female, sophisticated, genuine, attractive, no ties, OHAC, looking for honest man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423853

LADY, 48, 5ft2, hazel eyes, brown hair, likes bowling, meals out, nights in, ice skating, looking for a toy boy, 30-42, who is fun and enjoys life to have a good time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 422679

SUE, 58, feminine lady, attractive, intelligent and slim seeks genuine strong minded male, I have so many interests please call to hear them. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423577

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IAN, 5ft8, medium build, OHAC, likes most things, this is, holidays, gardening, motorbikes. WLTm similar aged lady, 50-60, with nice personality. Tel: 0906 515 3028 Box 421345

SIMON, kind hearted, average looking chap. 44yrs, own business, sporty, fun loving. Would love to meet a genuine lady to spoil and pamper. Box: 4138405

CHRISTIAN male 51, seeking Christian female, 35-45 for friendship, possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423747

ATTRACTIVE, Tall and intelligent Black male 50, lover of animals and nature seeks solvent lady of quality 50+ for romance. Text only Mailbox: 5561456

47 year old guy, 5ft7, dark hair, blue eyes, likes DVDs, nights in and out, seeks female, 42-49, in Leamington Spa/Rugby area, for friendship and long term relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424325

MALE, mid 60s, honest person, lots of interests, looking for a lady, 45-65, to share the good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424321

NICE old fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

TALL, 63 year old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, loves a laugh and a giggle, looking for a lady for evenings out, company and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303

JOHN, looking for a mature lady for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423789

STEVE, 53yr old male, laid back, likes most things in life, seeks female 40-50, for evenings out, need some TLC in my life. Text only Mailbox: 4362854

MALE, 44, very interesting person, own business, sporty, honest and genuine, likes nights out, meals out, cinema, country walks, WLTm a lady for friendship and good company leading to a permanent relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420841

WHITE curvy lady any age, required by handsome black professional male, for discreet casual adult fun. No time wasters pls. Text only Mailbox: 5066605

ROB, 63, 6ft, slim, own hair own teeth, young at heart, considered good looking, ohoc, solvent, so get back if you're interested. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424027

MARK 40, 5ft 9ins, brown hair/eyes, attractive, good looking, OHAC/business, likes walks, day trips, cinema, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 348239

HELLO I am an easy going chap and I WLTm a lady, 55-65 for a permanent relationship, so please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424131

TONY from Walsall, mid 50s, stocky build, looking to meet a lady any age/looks/race to have fun times with, so please get in touch if you're interested. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424067

MALE looking for lady for no strings adult fun on a regular basis, within 10 miles of Walsall is preferred but not essential, age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420873

64 year old male, living in Northampton, WLTm a lady between 50-75, for friendship and outings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 419929

PHIL, 53, 5ft7, stocky athletic build, likes keep fit, swimming, cosy nights in, meals out, WLTm an honest, attractive, caring lady, with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 421385

MALE 40s, own business, professional, likes to enjoy life, clubs, pubs, cinema, gym, seeks similar female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360283

SEAN mixed race 44, seeks female, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392363

NOTTINGHAM Steve 59, N/S, GSOH, loyal, sincere, likes meals out, cinema, walks, seeks sincere female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401177

MALE 43 slim, non smoker, open minded, looking for naughty liaisons with a naughty minded lady for naughty fun only. Text only Mailbox: 5543476

40YR old easy going guy, athletic and loves life is looking for some fun with a like minded girl. Text only Mailbox: 5545609

MARK 6ft, grey hair, 49, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391454

47 year old guy, lots of interests, seeks female, 42-49, for LTR, in the Leamington Spa/Rugby area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423997

PROFESSIONAL male, been hurt before, looking for female, 30-42, give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423995

DAVE genuine guy, 6ft, black hair, blue eyes, medium build, likes sports, gardening, music, seeks female with GSOH and genuine. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383372

ATTRACTIVE openminded male 57, seeks openminded female any age or status to share adult times. Text only Mailbox: 5410860

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BMW 320ISE
2002, 67,000 miles, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, alarm, MoT, metallic paint, central locking, cruise control, pas, alloys, stereo.
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Recent timing belt.
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07860 948741 / 01902 333925.

TOYOTA CELICA VVTi
185g / km, 102,067 miles, petrol, 3 months MoT.
Nice condition, red colour.
£850
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1.8. Silver.
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10 Personals

personal

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general

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Hawkins, front row, left, with the Wolves squad ahead of the First Division season in August 1983



Hawkins as a player in 1963



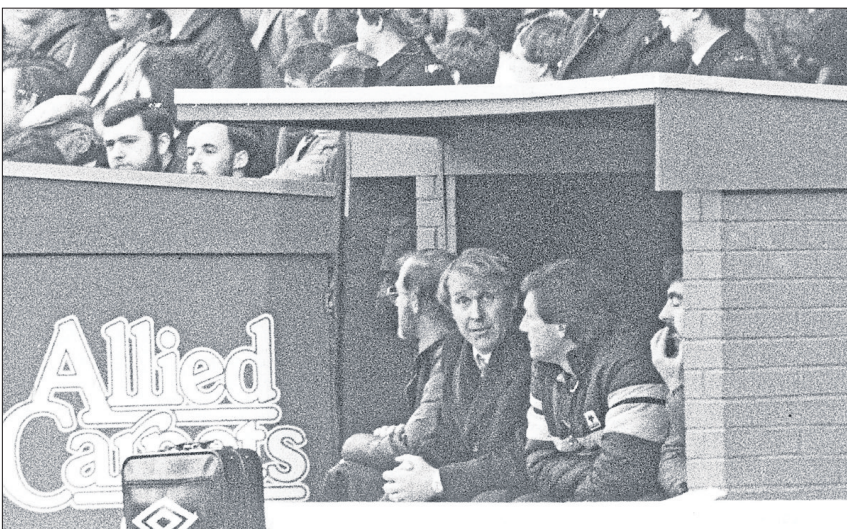
Hawkins pictured three years ago



Celebrations as Wolves are promoted at the end of the 82/83 season



Hawkins with Derek Dougan and John Ireland back in 1983



Hawkins in the Wolves hotseat, watching on from the dugout during a game at St Andrew's in 1984

Dedicated ex-boss made life better for patients

MEL EVES has led the tributes to 'one of the greats' **Graham Hawkins**, who died last week at the age of 70.

Hawkins won promotion with Wolves both as a player and a manager, graduating through the club from a boyhood fan to boss the team he once watched from the terraces.

And Eves described Hawkins – who raised money for fellow cancer patients at Shrewsbury's Royal Hospital after being diagnosed with non-Hodgkin Lymphoma in 2009 – as 'a pleasure to be around'.

After being relegated from Division One at the end of the 1981/82 season, Hawkins was the man tasked with getting Wolves straight back to the promised land.

Hawkins, who helped the team gain promotion to the top flight as player in 1967, arrived from Shrewsbury, where he served as an assistant to Graham Turner, to take the reins at Molineux – and succeeded immediately.

Moulded

Wolves finished second – 10 points behind Queens Park Rangers – to go back up at the first time of asking, with the likes of Eves, Andy Gray and Kenny Hibbitt starring.

"It is a really sad loss," said Eves. "He moulded a great team. There was a really good mix of senior pros and young lads in the side."

"He did a really good job with players such as Andy Gray, Kenny Hibbitt, myself, John Humphrey, Dale Rudge, Ian Cartwright, Bobby Coy."

"We did really well to get promoted and there was a really great team spirit there among the players."

"I finished top scorer that season and he had the faith to put me up front alongside Andy Gray."

"It was just unfortunate in the following season he

SPORTING MEMORIES

By Joe Edwards

"It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers."

was left out to dry," Eves added. "We probably needed three or four more players so that was disappointing for everybody."

Wolves struggled in the following season, back in the top flight, and Hawkins was sacked in April 1984 with the club heading for the first of three successive relegations.

It was a dark period for the club which almost resulted in extinction.

After management, Hawkins worked for the Football League as head of youth development, helping hundreds of young footballers make the grade as professionals.

"When Graham was in his role with the Football League, he always conducted himself impeccably – he was very professional," Eves said.

"He was really easy to get on with and a pleasure to be around."

"I think the last time I saw him was at the London Wolves 50th anniversary, which was not long ago. I knew he had been struggling for a while but he managed to do an awful lot of fundraising."

Laurie Dalrymple, managing director of Wolves, said: "Graham made a huge contribution not only to

Wolves but to football in general during his career. He was widely respected and well-liked, both inside and outside of football. It was typical of the man that he spent his final years raising money for fellow cancer sufferers at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Hawkins is survived by wife Jane, sons Ian and Richard and grandchildren Lauren, Amy, Holly and Louisa.

Royal Shrewsbury Hospital staff described Hawkins' fundraising efforts as 'magnificent'.

Dr Sheena Khanduri, clinical lead for cancer services at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, said: "The trust has lost a great friend and supporter."

"Graham's magnificent fundraising efforts really helped to improve the experience of our patients."

"His fundraising efforts included donating iPads which offered a distraction and something else for patients to think about whilst they receive their treatment in our Haematology Day Centre and the Chemotherapy Day Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital."

Legendary

"On behalf of the trust I would like to pass on my condolences to Graham's family."

Mr Hawkins was in the dugout at the Gay Meadow in the early 1980s alongside legendary manager Graham Turner before his move to Molineux.

Brian Caldwell, chief executive at Shrewsbury Town, said: "Graham will be remembered by many Shrewsbury Town fans for the work he did alongside Graham Turner as his assistant manager."

"It was a spell where the club played at the highest level in English football so far and Graham is remembered fondly by Town fans for being part of that."

"The thoughts of everyone at the club are with Graham's wife, Jane, his sons, Ian and Richard and the rest of his family and friends at this sad time."



Grahams Turner and Hawkins reunite at Shrewsbury Hospital as the latter visits to hand over computer equipment



Gloves off in Eggington v Gavin clash

THE gloves are off between Sam Eggington and Frankie Gavin as the fighting talk begins for their long-awaited clash this month.

The increasingly-fierce rivals will contest the WBC International welterweight title in the main event at the Barclaycard Arena on Saturday October 22.

The contest was due to take place at the same venue in October last year. It will, again, be live on Sky Sports.

The first build-up, prior to Gavin's withdrawal with a foot injury, had been relatively sedate but words were exchanged during the first head-to-head at the arena this time.

Stourbridge's Eggington claimed he'd been called 'dim' and 'dumb' by Gavin in an interview and vowed to make him pay for those comments.

Eggington said: "I don't mind a bit of criticism, it comes with anything. But when it's personal, I have a problem with that. I'm in a different mindset now and I'll be looking to knock him out."

Gavin said: "What I meant was my opinion that Sam has limited boxing ability, which I've stated on many occasions before. I've got superior skills and I think I'll have far too much for him."

Promoter Eddie Hearn has revealed Brummie Craig Cunningham, who lives in Oldbury, and Halesowen's Lennox Clarke, will appear on the under-card.

An all-Birmingham title fight will see Gamal Yafai defend his Commonwealth super bantamweight strap against English boss Sean Davis.

Two English titles will also be contested with a rematch for Don Broadhurst and Louis Norman.

Midlands lightweight champion Marcus Ffrench fights Central area counterpart Robbie Barrett. Midlands light welter titlist Andy Keates makes his first area defence against Jordan Cooke.

Yeltz had to replay after late leveller blow in cup clash

Halesowen Town 1 Nantwich Town 1
HALESOWEN were forced to replay on Tuesday night for the prospect of facing Stourbridge after Kaiman Anderson's ninth goal of the season was pegged back by a late deflected goal in a game of few chances played in drenching rain in the presence of the Emirates FA Cup.

Ryan Brooke and Matt Bell both went close for the visitors before Sean Cooke caused danger with his 25th minute cross as Halesowen sat back. The Yeltz re-organised with the introduction of Ethan Delaney as an extra forward and he tested Nantwich 'keeper Dave Parton with a 41st minute low shot.

After the interval leading striker Anderson put Halesowen ahead after 62 minutes by slotting past Parton after collecting from substitute James Hancocks. Kyle Haynes went close in the 71st minute. But the visitors are unbeaten away and drew level in the 76th minute when captain Sam Hall's shot took a huge deflection off team-mate Josh Hancock to loop over stranded Platt. Nantwich almost won the tie in injury time when Theo Stair curled just wide.

Benbow spot on for Glassboys in FA Cup

Ilkeston 1 Stourbridge 2

LUKE Benbow lashed home a decisive penalty as Stourbridge fought back from a first-half deficit to win at Ilkeston in the FA Cup – and could now face Black Country neighbours Halesowen in the next qualifying round.

Glassboys talisman Leon Broadhurst cancelled out Rory Coleman's early effort before Benbow settled matters 13 minutes into the second half to put the visitors within one victory of a fifth appearance in the first round proper in eight seasons.

Chances were at a premium until Coleman

FOOTBALL

headed the Robins in front from a Luis Rose delivery with 16 minutes on the clock of this third qualifying round tie. Undeterred, Stour got themselves on the front foot.

Drew Canavan threaded frontrunner Benbow down the right side of the penalty area but his shot was well saved by Ross Durrant. However, Dan Scarr won the initial header from Canavan's corner and Broadhurst arrived late to emphatically finish at the far post.

The Glassboys remained in charge in the sec-

ond half with Kayelden Brown close to taking advantage of a mix up at the back but his decision to square for Chris Lait allowed a defender to get back and block. But when Lait was upended by Jak Kenworthy moments later, Benbow was on hand to slam home the penalty to give the visitors a deserved lead.

Ilkeston responded but it might have been three when Brown's defence-splitting diagonal ball picked out Lait to roll a shot past Durrant's far post.

Mark Shelton went close with a swinging 25-yard shot for the hosts but Stourbridge booked a place in the fourth qualifying round draw.

STOUR GAME PLAN STOPPED

Leicester Lions 37 Stourbridge 13

STOUR fell short against a workmanlike, well-drilled Leicester Lions outfit that had clearly done their homework.

Despite playing the last quarter reduced to 14 men the hosts succeeded in stopping Stour's preferred game plan, hitting hard in defence to stop the visitors' ball carriers getting over the gain line.

Although within two points of the hosts when flanker Drew Rudkin was red carded, poor Stour defending leaked three late tries to the Lions' wingers as the game slipped away.

Kicking off in steady rain a missed tackle gave the hosts an early lead with a try for fullback Ian Smith. Stour goalkicker Luke White uncharacteristically shanked a penalty attempt shortly after and the first half remained otherwise scoreless unless Lions' centre Jon Boden slotted a penalty late on to make the half-time score 8-0.

Playing up the hill in the second half Stour shipped another try to Lions scrum half Kris McFedries. But they dug in and pulled back the lead through a White penalty and then took advantage of Rudkin's dismissal with a short range try for prop Tom Harrison to make it 15-13. But the hosts raised their game and finished the game off with three tries shared between wingers Sam Benjamin & Dev Constant.

On Saturday, Stour host a struggling Harrogate side yet to secure a win. Kick off is at 3pm.

Burton 20 DK 10

DUDLEY Kingswinford pressed early on but Burton raced from defence into attack and earned a penalty as the DK defence rushed back.

DK immediately hit back. Following a good period of attacking play they were rewarded by an offside penalty in front of the sticks and Gareth Bown made it 3-3.

A missed tackle led to Burton crossing the try line for a five pointer, and a converted try made it 15-3 at the break.

The opening minutes of the second half saw DK stuck in their own 22. With 20 minutes to go Burton broke through for another try.

Steffan Shillingford dived between the posts for a try, Gareth Bown adding the extras. But Bown's late penalty slid the wrong side of the posts.



Stour captain Ciaran Moore contests a lineout against Leicester Lions

Yozza hits bullseye with England glory

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes was part of the England men's side that were crowned team champions and came overall runners-up in the WDF Europe Cup.

Six titles were decided at the Hotel Zuiderduin in Egmond Aan Zee with 'Yozza' claiming one alongside Glen Durrant,

Scott Mitchell and James Hurrell. The Black Country thrower also competed in the men's pairs and singles competitions, with Holland taking the overall accolade.

Hughes endured disappointment at the first hurdle in the singles, beaten 4-1 by Scotland's Ross Montgomery. Montgom-

ery and Alan Soutar then beat Hughes and Durrant.

In the team event, Hughes, Durrant, Mitchell and Hurrell met Finland in the quarter-finals, to set up a semi-final tie against Northern Ireland where England triumphed 9-1 before then beating Holland in the final.

Heathens and Brummies in showdown

CRADLEY go into Monday's derby showdown with Birmingham looking to save their season.

The Heathens have been picked by their neighbours as play-off opponents after the Brummies ran away with the league leaders spot in the regular season.

The first leg is at Perry Barr tonight (Thursday) before Monday's second leg at Monmore.

If they miss out on Monday it is more than likely there will be no more home meetings as Heathens are massive underdogs in the Knockout Cup semi-final at Eastbourne.

It means the riders are under pressure to spring a surprise and beat the Brummies – or the curtain comes down on their first season back at Monmore.

"Birmingham are a very good team and they've got probably the best two reserves in the league in the two Jacks (Parkinson-Blackburn and Smith)," said Heathen Bradley Andrews.

"But my confidence has grown every week and I'll be doing what I can to go out there and beat them and get some points for the team.

"We know it's going to be tough against Birmingham because they've only lost one meeting all season. But if we can make some good starts and cut out the last places then I reckon we can push them much closer than we did in the league.

"We need to keep the scores as close as we can at their place and then we need to go for it at home. We've been a lot stronger at home all year really and we'd like to use that to our advantage again.

"Personally, I know I've learnt a lot this year. It was tough to start with but since I was dropped it gave me a kick up the backside and I feel a lot more confident."

It's a Biggs result at Bournemouth

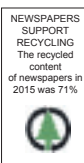
THERE was more marathon action for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club at the weekend as the autumn season picked up pace.

Matt Biggs produced another solid performance in the Bournemouth Marathon with a highly impressive 20th place in a time of 2:52.17.

A group travelled to Chester for their marathon around the city, across the border into Wales and back to the city's racecourse. Karen Doy was first home in 4:08.40 to take 1143rd place, Alison Whitehouse was 1318th in 4:18.18, Liz Hettle finished in 4:28.18 in 1449th and Gina Collins was 1752nd in 4:48.04.

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